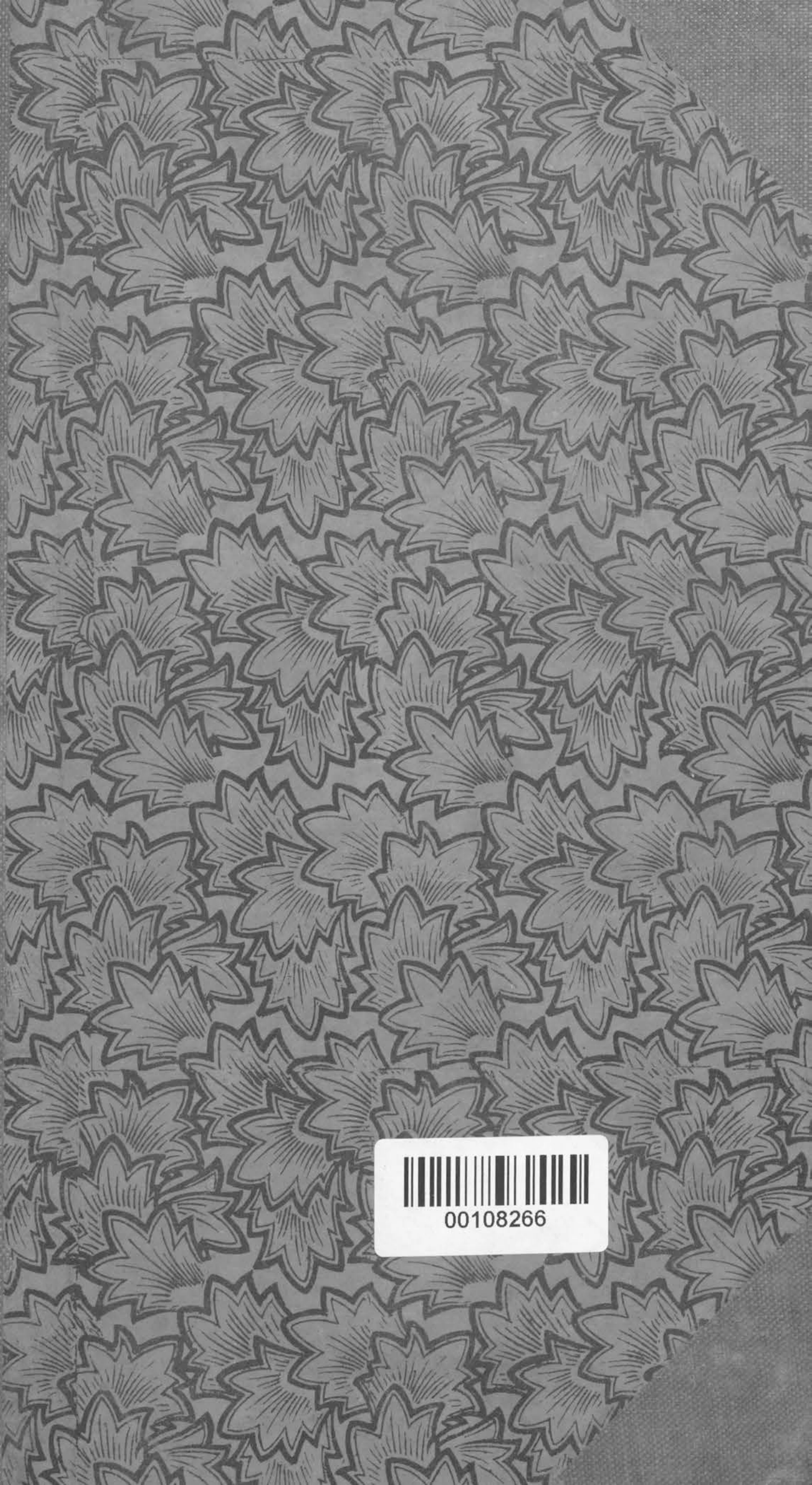
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OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.
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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

WEST INDIA COLONIES;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
25 *July* 1842.

Martis, 22° die Martii, 1842.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the State of the different *West India* Colonies, in reference to the existing Relations between Employers and Labourers, the Rate of Wages, the Supply of Labour, the System and Expense of Cultivation, and the general state of their Rural and Agricultural Economy.

Mercurii, 6° die Aprilis, 1842.

A Committee was nominated of—

Lord Stanley.	Mr. Emerson Tennent.
Mr. Pakington.	Mr. Grantley Berkeley
Viscount Howick.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Godson.	Mr. Barkes.
Sir Eardley Wilmot.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Mr. Charles Howard.	Mr. Barclay.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Viscount Chelsea.
Mr. Vernon Smith.	

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Lunæ, 25° die Julii, 1842.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to report their Observations and Opinion, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the State of the different WEST INDIA COLONIES, in reference to the existing Relations between Employers and Labourers, the Rate of Wages, the Supply of Labour, the System and Expense of Cultivation, and the General State of their Rural and Agricultural Economy; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them, together with their Observations and Opinion thereupon to The House;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

YOUR Committee have devoted their best attention to the important subject of inquiry which were entrusted to them, and have examined Witnesses from the Colonies of St. Vincent's, Trinidad, Barbadoes, British Guiana, Grenada, Antigua, St. Kitt's, and Jamaica.

The majority of those Witnesses were interested as Proprietors or Managers of Estates in some one or more of the above Colonies: but Your Committee have also examined other persons, who not only doubt the extent of the present difficulty and distress in the West Indies, but differ materially from the West Indian Proprietors as to the causes which have led to that distress, and believe that the great advantages which have resulted from Emancipation, have been unchecked and unalloyed by any consequent evils.

Your Committee regard the Evidence which they have thus collected as being of a most important and interesting character. It closely affects that grand measure of Emancipation of which the British Colonies in the West Indies have been and are now the scene: it bears immediately upon the future condition and prospects of those valuable Dependencies of the British Crown: and it has therefore a claim to the deep and deliberate consideration of Her Majesty's Government and The House.

Your Committee deeply regret that the advanced period of the Session to which their Inquiries have extended, and the large amount of verbal and documentary Evidence which they have received, preclude the possibility of their now submitting to The House a detailed Report, framed with that careful regard to every part of the great subject referred to them which its importance requires, and which would be essential to a full explanation of the opinions they entertain.

It is feared, on the other hand, that if the Report of Your Committee were to be postponed till the commencement of the next Session of Parliament, the evils and inconveniences of such a delay would greatly counterbalance any benefits which could result from the statement of their opinions which they might then present.

Your Committee feel reluctantly obliged by these considerations to restrict themselves to the following series of Resolutions: which they therefore beg leave

to lay before The House, as expressing briefly but accurately the opinions which they have been led by the Evidence to form.

In recommending those Resolutions and the Evidence to the attention of The House, Your Committee feel bound to state, in conclusion, that they cannot regard the present state of the West Indian Colonies, unsatisfactory as it is, with any feeling of despair. They believe that the distress now prevailing in those Colonies is very great, and requires immediate attention: they cannot indicate any remedy by which they can be sanguine enough to suppose that such serious distress could be speedily removed: but they have offered suggestions, in the subjoined Resolutions, the effects of which they confidently hope may be ultimately though gradually successful.

They believe that if those suggestions are considered and acted upon in a spirit of equal justice to both Proprietors and Labourers, prosperity may be restored; and that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, the World may witness the complete success of the great example which this Country has afforded.

Resolved, THAT it is the opinion of this Committee,

1. THAT the great act of emancipating the Slaves in the West Indian Colonies has been productive, as regards the character and condition of the Negro Population, of the most favourable and gratifying results.

2. THAT the improvement in the character of the Negro in every Colony into the state of which this Committee has had time to extend inquiry, is proved by abundant testimony of an increased and increasing desire for religious and general instruction; a growing disposition to take upon themselves the obligations of marriage, and to fulfil the duties of domestic life; improved morals; rapid advance in civilization, and increased sense of the value of property and independent station.

3. THAT, unhappily, there has occurred, simultaneously with this amendment in the condition of the Negroes, a very great diminution in the staple productions of the West Indies, to such an extent as to have caused serious, and, in some cases, ruinous injury to the proprietors of estates in those Colonies.

4. THAT while this distress has been felt to a much less extent in some of the smaller and more populous Islands, it has been so great in the larger Colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, as to have caused many estates, hitherto prosperous and productive, to be cultivated for the last two or three years at considerable loss, and others to be abandoned.

5. THAT the principal causes of this diminished production and consequent distress are, the great difficulty which has been experienced by the Planters in obtaining steady and continuous labour, and the high rate of remuneration which they give for the broken and indifferent work which they are able to procure.

6. THAT the diminished supply of labour is caused partly by the fact that some of the former Slaves have betaken themselves to other occupations more profitable than field labour; but the more general cause is, that the labourers are enabled to live in comfort and to acquire wealth without, for the most part, labouring on the estates of the planters for more than three or four days in a week, and from five to seven hours in a day; so that they have no sufficient stimulus to perform an adequate amount of work.

7. THAT this state of things arises partly from the high wages which the insufficiency of the supply of labour, and their competition with each other, naturally compel the Planters to pay; but is principally to be attributed to the easy terms upon which the use of land has been obtainable by Negroes.

8. THAT many of the former Slaves have been enabled to purchase land, and the labourers generally are allowed to occupy provision grounds subject to no rent, or to a very low one: and in these fertile countries, the land they thus hold as

owners

owners or occupiers not only yields them an ample supply of food, but in many cases a considerable overplus in money, altogether independent of, and in addition to, the high money wages which they receive.

9. That the cheapness of land has thus been the main cause of the difficulties which have been experienced; and that this cheapness is the natural result of the excess of fertile land beyond the wants of the existing population.

10. That in considering the anxious question of what practical remedies are best calculated to check the increasing depreciation of West Indian property, it therefore appears that much might be effected by judicious arrangements on the part of the Planters themselves, for their own general advantage, and by moderate and prudent changes in the system which they have hitherto adopted.

11. That one obvious and most desirable mode of endeavouring to compensate for this diminished supply of labour, is to promote the immigration of a fresh labouring population, to such an extent as to create competition for employment.

12. That for the better attainment of that object, as well as to secure the full rights and comforts of the immigrants as freemen, it is desirable that such immigration should be conducted under the authority, inspection, and control of responsible public officers.

13. That it is also a serious question, whether it is not required by a due regard for the just rights and interests of the West Indian Proprietors, and the ultimate welfare of the Negroes themselves, more especially in consideration of the large addition to the labouring population which it is hoped may soon be effected by immigration, that the laws which regulate the relations between employers and labourers in the different Colonies, should undergo early and careful revision by their respective Legislatures.

25 *July* 1842.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Lunæ, 11° *die Aprilis*, 1842.

Present:

Lord Stanley.	Mr. Emerson Tennent.
Mr. Godson.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Charles Howard.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Barclay.
Viscount Chelsea.	Viscount Howick.

Lord STANLEY, called to the Chair, pro. tem.

Committee deliberated on their course of proceeding and adjourned till Monday 18th instant at Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 25° *die Aprilis*, 1842.

Present:

Mr. Vernon Smith.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Lord Stanley.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Pakington.	Viscount Chelsea.
Mr. Charles Howard.	Mr. Emerson Tennent.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Viscount Howick.
Mr. Barclay.	

Mr. PAKINGTON called to the Chair.

Committee further considered their course of proceeding.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 19° *die Julii*, 1842.

Present:

Mr. PAKINGTON, in the Chair.

Mr. Hawes.	Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Vernon Smith.	Sir Charles Douglas.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Chelsea.
Mr. Bankes.	

Resolutions proposed by Mr. *Pakington* read, as follows:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee,

1. That the great act of emancipating the slaves in the West Indian Colonies has been productive, as regards the character and condition of the Negro population, of the most favourable and gratifying results.

2. That the improvement in the character of the Negro is proved by abundant testimony, from almost every colony, of an increased and increasing desire for religious and general instruction; a growing inclination for marriage and the duties of domestic life; improved morals; rapid advance in civilization; increased sense of the value of property and independent station; and, generally, good and steady conduct.

3. That, unhappily, there has occurred, simultaneously with this amendment in the condition of the Negroes, a very great diminution in the staple productions of the West Indies, to such an extent as to have caused serious, and, in some cases, ruinous injury to the European proprietors of estates in those Colonies.

4. That while this distress has been felt to a much less extent in some of the smaller and more populous islands, it has been so great in the larger Colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, as to have caused many estates, hitherto prosperous and productive, to be cultivated for the last two or three years at considerable loss, and others to be altogether abandoned.

5. That

5. That the principal causes of this diminished production and consequent distress are, the great difficulty which has been experienced by the planters in obtaining steady and continuous labour, and the high rate of remuneration which they give for even the broken and indifferent work which they are able to procure.

6. That the diminished supply of labour is caused partly by the fact that some of the former slaves have betaken themselves to other occupations more profitable than field labour, while others have devoted their surplus earnings to the purchase of independent property; but the more general cause is the excessive remuneration received by the labourers for their work, which is such as to enable them to live in comfort, and to acquire wealth, from the proceeds of labour which, for the most part, does not exceed three or four days in a week, and from five to seven hours in a day.

7. That this excessive remuneration of labour is caused in a great degree by that competition amongst the planters to obtain labour upon any terms, in order to meet the exigencies of the passing moment, which is perhaps a natural result of the difficult circumstances in which they have been placed, but which appears to have produced injurious effects, and to be inconsistent with their own ultimate interests.

8. That the most striking proof of the excessive amount of remuneration which the West Indian labourer receives, is the system with regard to "provision grounds," which prevails in nearly all the colonies; a system under which these grounds are allotted to the labourers, generally, to an extent limited only by their own wishes, and generally without any, or at least any adequate rent being exacted in return; and which thus enables them, in those fertile countries, to derive a considerable income altogether independent of and in addition to the high money wages which they receive, a system which has a tendency, by rapidly enriching the labourers, to remove them from the labour market; and which acts as a constant inducement to them to devote to the cultivation of their own productive grounds that very time which is so essential to the welfare of their employers.

9. That in considering the anxious question of what practicable remedies are best calculated to check the increasing depreciation of West Indian property, it therefore appears that much might be effected by judicious arrangements on the part of the planters themselves, for their own general advantage, and by moderate and prudent changes in the system which they have hitherto adopted.

10. That one obvious and most desirable mode of endeavouring to compensate for this diminished supply of labour, is to promote the immigration of a fresh labouring population of African or East Indian origin, to such an extent as to create competition for employment, and thereby to reduce wages to a more just and moderate standard.

11. That it is therefore most important that every possible assistance and encouragement, consistent with the rights and comforts of the immigrants as free men, should be afforded by the Government and Legislature of the mother country, to the introduction of African labourers into the West Indian Colonies.

12. That it is also a serious question, whether it is not required by a due regard for the just rights and interests of the West Indian proprietors, and the ultimate welfare of the Negroes themselves, more especially in consideration of the large addition to the labouring population which it is hoped may soon be effected by immigration, that the laws which regulate the relations between employers and labourers in the different Colonies, should undergo early and careful revision by their respective Legislatures.

Resolutions proposed by Mr. *Hawes* read, as follows:

1. That the Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the West India Colonies of Her Majesty, has been, according to the unanimous testimony of all the witnesses examined, followed by a decided improvement in the character and condition of the Negro population.

2. That all the witnesses examined concur in the opinion, that great distress exists amongst many of the owners of West India property. Q. 4885. 4895. 7260 6968. 5211.

3. That this distress is not shown, by any evidence adduced before Your Committee, to be greater than that which has been stated to prevail in former times, both during the existence of the slave trade and during the continuance of slavery, according to the statements of persons formerly representing the West India interest, and Parliamentary documents.

The extent and cause of West India distress in former times may be seen by consulting the following official documents.

(1.) Report on Sugar Trade, prepared by a committee of the Jamaica House of Assembly, the 23 November 1792.
(2.) Report of the Assembly, dated 23 November 1804, printed by order of The House of Commons, 25 February 1805.
(3.) Report of The House of Commons, No. 65, 24 July 1807.
(4.) Report of The House of Commons, No. 178, 13 April 1808.
(5.) Representation of the Assembly of Jamaica to the King, dated 15 June 1812. (No. 279, 1812.)
(6.) Speech of Mr. Marryat, in the House of Commons, in 1813.
(7.) Statements, calculations, &c., No. 120, 7 February 1831.
(8.) Despatch of Lord Goderich, dated 5 November 1831, and printed by order of Parliament.
(9.) Report of a Committee of The House of Commons, No. 381, 13 April 1832.

. 4718. 4753. 7229, .

4. That the witnesses examined before Your Committee do not agree in the causes to be assigned for the present distress; the great majority of whom, being owners or managers of estates in the colonies, state the causes to be—a want of a sufficient number of labourers to cultivate the land and gather in the crops; a want also of careful and continuous labour; and the high rate of wages demanded generally by the labouring population.

. 6078. 7599, and also e Stipendiary Magis- ates' Reports: Daly, urley, Kelly, Pringle.

On the other hand, witnesses not being directly or pecuniarily interested in colonial property, do not consider the distress to be as great as it is represented to be; that the causes of the distress which does exist are not permanent, and are traceable to the long-continued struggle for freedom between the opponents and the advocates of slavery, which infused distrust and discontent into the minds of the labouring population, which has continued to a recent period, and tended to diminish the profits of capital and the produce of labour.

. 5965. 5997. 7651. r C. Metcalfe's Ad- ress to House of ssembly, 26 Oct. 1841, ge 18, Jamaica apers.

5. That at the present time the relation between master and servant is on a more favourable footing than it has been at any former period. The more impartial administration of the law, the more general and regular payment of money wages, the introduction of task work, and the more correct and just appreciation of the true interests of the employer and the employed by both parties, are gradually tending to increase the confidence of the labouring population, and add to the efficiency of labour.

ar. Paper, 293.

6. That the produce and export of sugar and the other staple commodities of the islands have greatly decreased, and that hence the returns of capital invested have decreased, and greatly added to the distress existing amongst many of the owners of West India property That this distress has been most intense during the last three years.

. 7645-6-7. 6059. amaica Papers, Sti- endiary Justices' Re- orts. West India apers, Antigua, p. 19. itto, Trinidad, p. 54. itto, St. Lucia, p. 133.

7. That, by the evidence of the witnesses connected with West India property, this diminution of produce has arisen from the want of a sufficient supply of labourers, and of steady labour alone; whilst other witnesses attribute it to the want of a settled and well-understood relation between master and servant, consequent upon the transition from slave to free labour without proper preparation on the part of the Colonial Legislatures and proprietors; to an injurious practice of mixing rent and other allowances with wages in the payment for labour, which has led to much litigation and ill-will, and also diminished the amount of effective labour; and to the prevalence of unusually dry seasons, which have very ex- sively injured the crops.

ir C. Metcalfe's Des- atch, 1 Nov. 1841. amaica Papers. est India Papers, ritish Guiana, p. 153. 282 to 7287.

8. That, by the most recent accounts, more favourable seasons have ret- produce of the islands is increasing; that the crops of last year were large of the year before; and that the prospect of the crops of the present yea favourable than those of the last.

ir C. Metcalfe's espatch, 2 Nov. 1841. overnor Light's espatch, 7 Dec. 1841. ritish Guiana Papers, . 153.

9. That the prospects of the colonies are improving, especially of Jamaica, sources of wealth have been called into action, according to the official state Sir Charles Metcalfe, in the cultivation of silk, cotton, and tobacco, and the extra copper; and that the commercial interest, which had suffered, partly from overtrad excessive credits, which were suddenly withdrawn, is reviving.

. 7669. 7675. 7369. 030.

10. That, under present circumstances, no sufficient ground is laid for the inter or for any further assistance, of the mother country, except so far as the Cr Parliament can promote trade by the removal of every unnecessary impediment, red heavy taxation of the islands, enforce a greater economy, and generally encourage j enlightened legislation.

vid. Sir C. Metcalfe 436.

11. That, with regard to the demand for labourers, it does not appear that there is obstacle to any reasonable supply, except that which arises from the want of capital on part of individual proprietors; and that, to furnish funds from Imperial sources, to pay the conveyance of labourers to the estates of West Indian proprietors, would be contrary sound policy, and unjust to the people of this country.

12. That, even if such assistance were to be contemplated, it could only be upon condition that the duties on sugar, both colonial and foreign, were equalised and gre reduced.

amaica Papers, p. 21. rinidad ditto, p. 110.

13. That, according to the Papers laid before the Committee, there is a great fiel improvement yet open in the colonies; that they have vast resources undeveloped; that supply of labour is rapidly increasing, both by natural means and by immigration, a 20,000 immigrants having been introduced into the colonies of Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, since the period of freedom. And further, that a reduction of expendit and the practice of greater economy generally; that the improved and improving metho of cultivation; that the cultivation of new products, such as silk, cotton, and tobacco; th a respect for the rights of the negro population, on the part of the proprietors and manage of estates; that a wise and just system of legislation and administration of the law, wi remove discontents, and prove the surest means of obtaining efficient and steady labour, o restoring the prosperity of the colonies, and of completing the triumph of the great Act fo the abolition of slavery.

Motion made, "That the Committee do now proceed to consider the Resolutions proposed by Mr. *Pakington*, as the basis of their Report."

Amendment proposed (Mr. *Hawes*), to leave out the words "Mr. Pakington," for the purpose of inserting the words "Mr. Hawes" in lieu thereof.

Question,

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out, stand part of the question," put, and agreed to.

Main question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "1. That the great act of emancipating the slaves in the West Indian Colonies has been productive, as regards the character and condition of the Negro population, of the most favourable and gratifying results.

"2. That the improvement in the character of the Negro is proved by abundant testimony, from every colony to the state of which this Committee has had time to extend inquiry, of an increased and increasing desire for religious and general instruction; a growing disposition to take upon themselves the obligations of marriage, and to fulfil the duties of domestic life; improved morals; rapid advance in civilization, and increased sense of the value of property and independent station.

"3. That, unhappily, there has occurred, simultaneously with this amendment in the condition of the Negroes, a very great diminution in the staple productions of the West Indies, to such an extent as to have caused serious, and, in some cases, ruinous injury to the proprietors of estates in those colonies.

"4. That while this distress has been felt to a much less extent in some of the smaller and more populous islands, it has been so great in the larger colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, as to have caused many estates, hitherto prosperous and productive, to be cultivated for the last two or three years at considerable loss, and others to be abandoned."

Proposed Resolution No. 5, read as follows:

"That the principal causes of this diminished production and consequent distress are, the great difficulty which has been experienced by the planters in obtaining steady and continuous labour, and the high rate of remuneration which they give for the broken and indifferent work which they are able to procure."

Amendment proposed (Viscount *Howick*), to leave out all the words after the word "labour."

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out, stand part of the proposed Resolution," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. V. Smith.
Mr. Bankes.	Viscount Howick.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Mr. Hawes.
Sir C. Douglas.	
Viscount Chelsea.	

Question, "That this Resolution be agreed to," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. V. Smith.
Mr. Bankes.	Viscount Howick.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Mr. Hawes.
Sir C. Douglas.	
Viscount Chelsea.	

Resolved, "5. That the principal causes of this diminished production and consequent distress are, the great difficulty which has been experienced by the planters in obtaining steady and continuous labour, and the high rate of remuneration which they give for the broken and indifferent work which they are able to procure."

Resolved, "6. That the diminished supply of labour is caused partly by the fact that some of the former slaves have betaken themselves to other occupations more profitable than field labour; but the more general cause is, that the labourers are enabled to live in comfort and to acquire wealth without, for the most part, labouring on the estates of the planters for more than three or four days in a week, and from five to seven hours in a day; so that they have no sufficient stimulus to perform an adequate amount of work."

Proposed Resolution, No. 7, read as follows:

"That this excessive remuneration of labour is caused, in a great degree, by that competition amongst the planters to obtain labour upon any terms, in order to meet the exigencies of the passing moment, which is, perhaps, a natural result of the difficult circumstances in which they have been placed, but which appears to have produced injurious effects, and to be inconsistent with their own ultimate interests."

Amendment proposed (Viscount *Howick*), to leave out all the words after the word "that," for the purpose of inserting the words following:

"This state of things arises partly from the high wages which the insufficiency of the supply of labour, and their competition with each other, naturally compel the planters to pay; but is principally to be attributed to the easy terms upon which the use of land has been obtainable by negroes."

Question, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Resolution," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 2.	Noes, 6.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Mr. Barclay.
Sir C. Douglas.	Mr. Bankes.
	Mr. V. Smith.
	Viscount Chelsea.
	Viscount Howick.
	Mr. Hawes.

Question, " That the words proposed be there inserted," proposed.

Amendment proposed to the said proposed Amendment, " To leave out the word 'high.'"

Question, " That the word 'high' stand part of the proposed Amendment," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. V. Smith.
Mr. Bankes.	Sir C. Douglas.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Viscount Chelsea.
Viscount Howick.	Mr. Hawes.

The Chairman gave his casting vote to the Ayes.

Words inserted.

Resolution, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved, " 7. That this state of things arises partly from the high wages which the insufficiency of the supply of labour, and their competition with each other, naturally compel the planters to pay; but is principally to be attributed to the easy terms upon which the use of land has been obtainable by negroes."

Proposed Resolution, No. 8, read as follows:

" That the most striking proof of the excessive amount of remuneration which the West Indian labourer receives, is the system with regard to " provision grounds," which prevails in nearly all the colonies:—a system under which these grounds are allotted to the labourers, generally, to an extent limited only by their own wishes, and generally without any, or at least any adequate rent being exacted in return; and which thus enables them, in those fertile countries, to derive a considerable income altogether independent of and in addition to the high money wages which they receive:—a system which has a tendency, by rapidly enriching the labourers, to remove them from the labour market; and which acts as a constant inducement to them to devote to the cultivation of their own productive grounds that very time which is so essential to the welfare of their employers."

Amendment proposed (Viscount *Howick*), to leave out all the words after the word "That," for the purpose of inserting the words following: " Many of the former slaves have been enabled to purchase land, and the labourers generally are allowed to occupy provision grounds subject to no rent, or to a very low one; and in these fertile countries, the land they thus hold as owners or occupiers not only yields them an ample supply of food, but in many cases a considerable overplus in money, altogether independent of, and in addition to, the high money wages which they receive."

Question, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Resolution," put, and negatived.

Words inserted.

Resolution, as amended, agreed to.

Resolved, " 8. That many of the former slaves have been enabled to purchase land, and the labourers generally are allowed to occupy provision grounds subject to no rent, or to a very low one; and in these fertile countries, the land they thus hold as owners or occupiers not only yields them an ample supply of food, but in many cases a considerable overplus in money, altogether independent of, and in addition to, the high money wages which they receive."

Proposed Resolution, No. 9, read as follows:

" That in considering the anxious question of what practicable remedies are best calculated to check the increasing depreciation of West Indian property, it therefore appears that much might be effected by judicious arrangements on the part of the Planters themselves, for their own general advantage, and by moderate and prudent changes in the system which they have hitherto adopted."

Question, " That this Resolution be agreed to," put.

The

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 7.	Noes, 1.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Bankes.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	
Mr. V. Smith.	
Sir C. Douglas.	
Viscount Chelsea.	
Viscount Howick.	
Mr. Hawes.	

Resolved, "9. That in considering the anxious question of what practical remedies are best calculated to check the increasing depreciation of West Indian property, it therefore appears that much might be effected by judicious arrangements on the part of the planters themselves, for their own general advantage, and by moderate and prudent changes in the system which they have hitherto adopted."

Proposed Resolution No. 10, read as follows:

"That one obvious and most desirable mode of endeavouring to compensate for this diminished supply of labour, is to promote the immigration of a fresh labouring population, to such an extent as to create competition for employment."

Question, "That this Resolution be agreed to," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Bankes.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. V. Smith.	Viscount Howick.
Sir C. Douglas.	
Viscount Chelsea.	

Resolved, "10. That one obvious and most desirable mode of endeavouring to compensate for this diminished supply of labour, is to promote the immigration of a fresh labouring population, to such an extent as to create competition for employment."

Proposed Resolution No. 11, read as follows:

"That it is therefore most important that every possible assistance and encouragement, consistent with the rights and comforts of the immigrants as free men, should be afforded by the Government and Legislature of the Mother Country, to the introduction of African labourers into the West Indian Colonies."

Question, "That this Resolution be agreed to," put, and negatived.

Proposed Resolution No. 12, read as follows:

"That it is also a serious question, whether it is not required by a due regard for the just rights and interests of the West Indian proprietors, and the ultimate welfare of the Negroes themselves, more especially in consideration of the large addition to the labouring population which it is hoped may soon be effected by immigration, that the laws which regulat the relations between employers and labourers in the different Colonies, should undergo early and careful revision by their respective Legislatures."

Amendment proposed (Mr. *Bankes*), after the word "soon" to insert the words following: "under the encouragement of the Government of the Mother Country."

Question, "That these words be there inserted," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 2.	Noes, 6.
Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Barclay.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Mr. V. Smith.
	Sir C. Douglas.
	Viscount Chelsea.
	Viscount Howick.
	Mr. Hawes.

Question, "That this Resolution be agreed to," put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Bankes.
Mr. G. Berkeley.	Mr. V. Smith.
Sir C. Douglas.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Hawes.

The Chairman gave his casting vote to the Ayes.

Resolved, "11. That it is also a serious question, whether it is not required by a due regard for the just rights and interests of the West Indian proprietors, and the ultimate welfare of the Negroes themselves, more especially in consideration of the large addition to the labouring population which it is hoped may soon be effected by immigration, that the laws which regulate the relations between employers and labourers in the different Colonies, should undergo early and careful revision by their respective Legislatures."

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That the cheapness of land has thus been the main cause of the difficulties which have been experienced; and that this cheapness is the natural result of the excess of fertile land beyond the wants of the existing population."

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Bankes.
Mr. V. Smith.	Mr. G. Berkeley.
Sir C. Douglas.	Viscount Chelsea.
Viscount Howick.	
Mr. Hawes.	

Resolved, "12. That the cheapness of land has thus been the main cause of the difficulties which have been experienced; and that this cheapness is the natural result of the excess of fertile land beyond the wants of the existing population."

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That the want of labour could not therefore be supplied by the mere immigration of labourers, since the extent of unoccupied land is so great, that, from the same causes which affect the present population, the new immigrants would be rapidly withdrawn from the labour market, while the demand for labour would increase as fast as the supply."

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 2.	Noes, 6.
Viscount Howick.	Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Hawes.	Mr. Bankes.
	Mr. G. Berkeley.
	Mr. V. Smith.
	Sir C. Douglas.
	Viscount Chelsea.

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That it is expedient to adopt, with reference to the West Indies, that principle of artificially raising the value of land, which, in its application to the Australian colonies, has received the sanction both of the Executive Government and of the Legislature."

Question put, and negatived.

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That the mode of acting upon this principle adopted in the Australian Colonies (being that of disposing of the Crown Lands only by sale at a comparatively high price) is not applicable to those in the West Indies; because, in the latter, the right of the Crown to the unoccupied lands has been to a great extent transferred to private individuals."

Question put, and negatived.

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That, for this reason, a different mode of applying the principle recognised as sound ought to be adopted in the larger West Indian Colonies; and looking to their peculiar circumstances, there would appear to be no better means of effecting this than a change in the existing system of taxation, by which a portion of the revenue required for the public service should be raised by means of a direct charge upon the land."

Question put, and negatived.

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That the effect of such a charge, if kept within moderate limits, would not be to prevent the Negroes from occupying land in the manner they have been accustomed to do, both before and since the abolition of slavery, but only to subject them to the necessity of devoting a larger portion of their time to regular industry, in order to earn the means of paying the tax imposed upon them."

Question put, and negatived.

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That the imposition of such a charge should be taken advantage of, in order to remove the very objectionable duties which in some Colonies are levied on the exportation of their staple productions; and that, to avoid imposing a new burden upon the trade in these staples, a drawback should be allowed on their exportations, equivalent to the tax imposed upon land."

Question put, and negatived.

Motion made (Viscount *Howick*):

"That the adoption of measures of this description ought not entirely to supersede the endeavour to encourage the immigration of labourers into these Colonies, provided that the utmost caution is observed to guard against abuses in the means adopted to procure immigrants, and also against their being introduced more rapidly than adequate preparations can be made for their reception."

Question put, and negatived.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 22° *die Julii*, 1842.

Present:

Mr. PAKINGTON, in the Chair.

Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Bankes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Vernon Smith.	Mr. Hawes.
Viscount Chelsea.	Lord Stanley.

Motion made, and Question proposed,

"That the Resolution given notice of by the Chairman instead of the 11th of his Resolutions, which was negatived at the last meeting of the Committee, be now considered."

Amendment proposed (Mr. *Hawes*), to leave out all the words from "That" to the end of the Question, for the purpose of inserting the following words, "it is the opinion of this Committee that the Resolution now proposed, being substantially the same as the Resolution No. 11, which was negatived at the former meeting of the Committee, it is contrary to the usual course of proceeding to move its re-adoption."

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," put.

Ayes, 6.	Noes.
Mr. Vernon Smith.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	
Mr. Barclay.	
Sir Charles Douglas.	
Viscount Chelsea.	
Mr. Bankes.	

Question, "That the Resolution given notice of by the Chairman instead of the 11th of his Resolutions, which was negatived at the last meeting of the Committee, be now considered," put.

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 2.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Sir Charles Douglas.	
Viscount Chelsea.	
Mr. Bankes.	

Resolution proposed by the *Chairman*, read as follows:

"That it is therefore most important that all due sanction and encouragement should be afforded by the Government to the introduction of labourers of African or East Indian origin into the West Indian Colonies; and for the better attainment of that object, as well as to secure the full rights and comforts of the immigrants as freemen, it is desirable that such immigration should be conducted under the authority, inspection, and control of responsible public officers.

Amendment proposed (Mr. *Bankes*), to leave out the words "all due."

Question, That the words "all due" stand part of the proposed Resolution, put.

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Hawes.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Viscount Chelsea.
	Mr. Bankes.

Words struck out.

Another amendment proposed (Mr. *Hawes*), to leave out from "the last amendment" to "into," for the purpose of inserting the following words, "encouragement be afforded by the Colonial Legislatures to the introduction of labourers."

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Resolution."

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Barclay.	Sir Charles Douglas.
Viscount Chelsea.	

Question proposed as amended, put.

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Barclay.	Viscount Chelsea.
	Sir Charles Douglas.

So it passed in the negative.

Motion made (Viscount *Chelsea*) and question, "That for the better attainment of that object, as well as to secure the full rights and comforts of the immigrants as freemen, it is desirable that such immigration should be conducted under the authority, inspection, and control of responsible public officers," put, and agreed to.

Motion made (Mr. *Grantley Berkeley*) and question, "That it is expedient that more effective measures should be taken by the Executive Government throughout the West India Colonies, and in British Guiana, to prevent the negro population from squatting or occupying the unemployed lands, and for the prevention of vagrancy," put.

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 4.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Bankes.
Mr. Hawes.	Viscount Chelsea.
	Sir Charles Douglas.

So it passed in the negative.

[Adjourned till Monday, at Two o'clock.

Lunæ, 25° *die Julii*, 1842.

Present:

Mr. PAKINGTON, in the Chair.

Sir Charles Douglas.	Viscount Chelsea
Mr. Hawes.	Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Vernon Smith.	Mr. Bankes.

Report, proposed by the *Chairman*, read.

Amendment proposed (Mr. *Bankes*), after first paragraph, to insert the following words:

They have availed themselves of every source of information which it was in their power to attain, and have received the testimony, as well of persons interested as proprietors of West Indian property, and engaged in West Indian trade, as of persons who have no such interest. They have collected as the result of their inquiries from these different sources, a variety of opinions as to the extent of the existing evil, the pressure of which upon the West Indian interest is by no one denied. But the circumstances under which it has originated (or greatly increased) contemporaneously with the amended condition of the negro population, is described variously in the testimony of the different persons examined by Your Committee, and whilst these witnesses disagree as to the cause of the distress, they differ also as to the remedial measures which it may be expedient to propose.

The difficulty which must always arise in arriving at a satisfactory determination in conflicts of opposite opinions between persons equally well informed upon the subjects in dispute, have been met by Your Committee with that assiduous and careful comparison of the evidence which has led them, as they hope, to just conclusions, and in respect of the causes of the evils under which the West Indian interest is now suffering, they are prepared to deliver their Report. But on the other and more important branch of the inquiry confided to them, though they have formed some opinions which it is their intention now, in general terms, to declare; yet they are sensible that they have not been furnished with such evidence on the interesting subject of immigration as can enable them to prepare in this respect a detailed and specific recommendation.

The House is aware, that at the same time with the appointment of this Committee, another Committee was appointed to inquire into the state of the British possessions on the West Coast of Africa. The publication of the proceedings of that Committee had been anxiously expected by this Committee, hoping to derive from the result of those inquiries such information as might aid their decision in recommending a particular quarter from whence a fresh labouring population may be procured, and which might guide this Committee also in regard to the nature and extent of the encouragement of immigration on the part of the Government of the Mother Country, which they might feel themselves called upon to suggest.

As

As respects the subject of immigration from the East Indies, Your Committee cannot, under present circumstances, better discharge their duty than by directing the particular attention of The House to the Evidence of Sir Charles Metcalfe. This and other testimony now before them, has led Your Committee to believe that the constitutional form, as well as the habits of the natives of some of the districts of Eastern Asia qualify them in a peculiar degree in the enjoyment of bodily health and moral comfort as labourers in the West Indian climate.

Question, "That these words be there inserted," put and negatived.

Several amendments made.

Report, as amended, agreed to.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	By what Member of Committee Motion made for Attendance of the Witness.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Discharge.	Total Number of Days in London.	Number of Days under Examination by Committee, or acting specially under their Orders.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
							£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
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Henry J. Ross -	Esquire - [redacted]	ditto - -	12 July -	14 July -	3	1	4 17 –	8 – –	12 17 –
								£.	19 9 –

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Lunæ, 25° *die Aprilis*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. V. Smith.
Sir C. Douglas.	Lord Stanley.
Mr. Hawes.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Mr. C. Howard.	Mr. E. Tennent.

JOIIN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Hay M'Dowall Grant, Esq. called in; and Examined.

ST. VINCENT.

Hay M'Dowall Grant, Esq.

25 April 1842.

1. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the island of St. Vincent's?—I am.

2. During what length of time have you resided there, and at what time did you go out?—I went out in 1831; I left it on a visit to England in May 1841.

3. What was your occupation while there?—I was in charge of eight estates, as attorney or agent.

4. Were you the proprietor of any of the estates in that colony?—I was not.

5. Did you undertake the sole or principal management of the estates?—In 1836 I undertook the principal management of one estate on which I lived.

6. What is the name of that?—Calder.

7. In the island of St. Vincent's, is there any law or ordinance which regulates the contracts of hiring between labourers and employers?—There is.

8. Can you furnish a copy of it?—No, I can refer to it; I have not a copy. In the answers I have made to certain questions, I think a reference will be found.

9. Will you state the nature of the Act?—It is the Contracts Act, sent out by order of the Colonial-office, and which was passed; the Masters' and Servants' Act, founded, I think, on orders in Council sent to the Crown colonies. At any rate it is the Act the Government requested us to pass.

10. Can you furnish any information to the Committee with respect to the contracts for the occupation of houses and grounds?—We do not go upon that system at all; that system is not followed with us.

11. Is there any law or ordinance in that colony with respect to combinations?—Yes, there is; I cannot furnish a copy of that.

12. Is there a law with regard to the recovery of houses and lands held over by tenants?—There is.

13. Have you a copy of that?—I have not.

14. Is there a law for settling disputes between the labourer and the employer, with respect to their mutual claims?—There is a law with respect to those.

15. Lord *Stanley.*] What are the different Acts to which you refer, as regulating the relation between the employer and the labourer?—We have what is called a Masters' and Servants' Act, which regulates contracts for work; we have also the Combination Act; we have also an Ejectment Act, an Act enabling tenants to be ejected under certain circumstances. Those are the only three.

16. Those are the three Acts by which the relation between the employer and the labourer is regulated?—As far as my knowledge goes.

Hay M'Dowall Grant, Esq.

25 April 1842.

17. What is the system pursued in St. Vincent's generally, as between employer and labourer, as regulating the payment of wages?—When a labourer is employed, if the employment is to be beyond a month, an agreement should be entered into before a magistrate; that was found to be very troublesome, therefore the common agreement is a parole agreement for a month; there is scarcely an instance, except under peculiar circumstances, of anything different.

18. Is the parole agreement for a month entered into before witnesses?—Yes.

19. By the law of St. Vincent's, if a contract is to be entered into for more than a month, it is necessary it should be entered into before a magistrate?—Yes, before a special magistrate.

20. Is there any record of a parole contract?—No written contract, only witnesses; and when a question arises on a parole contract, you bring the witnesses to prove there was a contract.

21. Are there any regulations in the colony, by which the terms of a parole contract are regulated; is there any contract which by parole a labourer is not permitted to enter into, or is he left entirely to use his own discretion as to agreements for less than a month?—They are left entirely free; no restriction exists at this moment in regard either to the labourer or the employer.

22. You state that contracts are generally entered into for less than a month?—Yes; having only three special magistrates, from the difficulty of their attending on the estates when required, and the loss of time.

23. Is the large proportion of labour done in St. Vincent's under contracts for a month, or do they employ the labourers generally from day to day, or week to week?—For a month; I scarcely know an instance in which it is otherwise.

24. Do you find any reluctance on the part of labourers to enter into contracts for a month?—Not the slightest.

25. Do you conceive, that if it were not for the inconvenience of going before a magistrate, there would be no more reluctance on their part to enter into contracts for a year than a month?—I think there would.

26. You think they prefer binding themselves only for that time?—Yes, I think they do under the circumstances under which their provision grounds are regulated.

27. Is there any particular period of the year at which there is greater difficulty of obtaining those contracts for a month than at others?—No, I should say not.

28. Do the same labourers generally continue month after month with the same employer, and renew their contracts?—Yes, the renewal of work is a renewal of contract.

29. Then, practically, if a parole contract is entered into for a month, it continues even after the month, unless one of the parties has given notice?—Yes; but either party may leave at the expiration of the month, without the necessity of giving any notice.

30. Are you to be understood, that supposing at the end of the month no new engagement had been entered into, but the labourer continued to work, the magistrate would hold that that was a renewal of the contract for another month?—He would, provided no notice had been given on either side, provided a fresh entry on work had been made for a new month.

31. You state that there is no law regulating parole contracts entered into for a month, what are the terms either with regard to the amount of remuneration, with regard to the amount of the task, or with regard to the question of the provision grounds being mixed up with the question of rent; what are the general terms on which the labourers enter into contracts for a month with the poprietors of sugar plantations?—Nine hours' labour per day, five days in the week, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per day currency, equal to about 8 *d.* sterling for the first class; house rent free, two allotments of provision grounds, one in the mountains and one on the estate; medical attendance and medicine; a gratuity of 2 lbs. of salt fish weekly, provided the labourer gives satisfaction, and sugar or rum at the discretion of the manager, according to the work.

32. What do you mean by their allotments?—There are certain provisions which

which grow better in the mountains than on the estates, and they have an allotment of an acre of land in the mountains and a quarter of an acre attached to the estate; the ground attached to the estate they work during their noons or any hour they can catch from the field work; the ground in the mountains they go up to on Saturdays to work.

33. Is it the practice in St. Vincent's, under the contracts, to introduce task-work, or are the contracts almost exclusively for day-work?—We were very anxious to introduce task-work, and I introduced it for about three months after emancipation, with great success; but suddenly, without any cause, except that they said it was too hard, they gave it up; I think our system of provision grounds prevents task-work.

34. What are the penalties which attach under the law to a violation of the contract on the part of the labourer?—A fine.

35. A fine only?—I rather think imprisonment in the event of refusing to pay the fine; I cannot say whether imprisonment or levying on the goods.

36. Does the fine go to the employer?—I think as far as I can recollect a portion goes to the master for loss of time, and the rest goes to the Treasury.

37. Have you been much in the habit of acting under those Acts?—No; I made as few complaints as possible.

38. Are those contracts enforced by the special magistrates only?—Yes; or a stipendiary magistrate appointed by the Governor to do so.

39. *Chairman.*] Did the labourers employed on the Calder estate under your charge, occupy any house and land belonging to the plantation?—They did.

40. How long has that been the case?—They occupied under slavery and apprenticeship, and they have continued it under freedom.

41. What are the terms on which they were permitted to continue the house and land under the free system?—The first year our Emancipation Act placed us in a peculiar position; no proprietor or his agent had the power of turning off a labourer from an estate, provided that labourer was willing to work for the wages agreed upon, therefore, every agreement for the first year was for a year; but after the Masters' and Servants' Act was passed the contracts became monthly; it was then arranged, that if a labourer left an estate without any ground given, or if he was dismissed by a magistrate on account of improper conduct, he forfeited all the young provisions in his grounds, and merely took what was ripe, but if the master turned him away from not wanting him, or from any freak on the master's part, or the contract was voided on account of a magistrate enabling it to be done, the provisions went to the labourer until they were all reaped.

42. Was there any money rent paid for the premises?—None.

43. Was it part of the agreement that the occupation should be continued only so long as the labourer consented to be employed on the plantation, or what was the duration of the occupation?—It depended entirely on whether the labourer left of his own choice, or was dismissed.

44. What quantity of land was occupied in this way?—An acre of mountain ground was given, of which they cultivated generally half; some industrious people would cultivate more, and a quarter of an acre on the plantation.

45. Were there any other advantages enjoyed by the labourer?—I have stated the other advantages of medical attendance, and so on.

46. Will you state your opinion on the expediency or inexpediency of keeping the rents distinct from the wages?—I think the system of payment of rent would be bad, both for the master and the servant; as to the master, if there were a system of rent paid, all the houses might be occupied by parties paying rent for them, without those parties working for the estate; and when the master wished to obtain new labourers, he would have no houses to put them into. On the part of the labourer, I think it would lead to continual dissatisfaction, if he had to pay money for that which under slavery he possessed without paying.

47. What previous notice was given before a labourer could be ejected from a house and garden?—There was no such thing as ejectment; I have stated that there was no such thing practised as letting for rent, therefore there was no such thing as ejectment. If a servant left an employment of his own accord, he left his grounds; if he was turned away, he had a right to his grounds till he had gathered his provisions.

Hay M'Dowall Grant, Esq.

25 April 1842.

48. What was the arrangement as to the time of paying the hire of the labourer?—Weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, according as the labourers wished it; their convenience was consulted.

49. In that arrangement, is any stipulation made as to the number of hours each day he is to work?—Nine hours is the stipulation.

50. What redress have the employers or the labourers, in case of the non-performance by either of a contract?—Complaint to a special magistrate.

51. Was that found to be sufficient?—I have always found it to be so.

52. That redress was afforded whenever called for?—Yes.

53. In the island of St. Vincent is there much or any deviation from that system?—There may be a deviation from the caprice of individuals; but this is the general system as far as I know.

54. What is the amount of wages per day, paid to each class of labourers on estates?—The first year it was 1*s.* 6*d.* currency, equal to 8*d.* sterling; 1*s.* 3*d.* currency to the second class, equal to 6½*d.* sterling; and 1*s.* to an inferior class, equal to 5*d.* sterling; but I scarcely know an instance of that now.

55. Will you describe the three classes?—If I go into minutiæ, I should put an extra 10*d.* or 2*s.* currency, for the first class, the head men: the head tradesmen received that, equal to 10*d.* sterling. The general class of field labourers, what we call the first class, receive the 8*d.* sterling; what we call the small gang, receive the 1*s.* 3*d.* or 6½*d.*; and a few old people used to come out of the negro houses and cut grass, or something of that kind; they used to receive 5*d.* sterling.

56. They had also, you say, medical attendance?—Yes, and a certain allowance of fish and sugar; but that fish was always understood to be a gratuity, that is to say, it was a means of inciting them, and encouraging them; it was not an agreement.

57. The amount of money wages was subject to previous contract?—Yes.

58. Is task-work performed on the sugar plantations?—Not now; there was task-work, but it is now almost entirely given up. I have made out a scale of what our task-work was.

59. When there is task-work, in what manner is the arrangement made?—At the end of the day the superintendent used to enter the quantity done by each party, according to the kind of work they were doing; a little book was kept, in which it was recorded; and each negro generally kept his own diary.

60. Is the rate of wages in any case affected, or varied, by the agreement that the labourer shall occupy the house or land of his employer?—I consider our wages to be so low, on account of the occupation of the house and grounds referred to.

61. Mr. *Hawes.*] What do you estimate the money value of the house and the ground occupied by the negro?—I should have to go into a calculation to answer that; but I know from evidence I have had before me, that a negro family can support themselves and father and mother easily, and clear a hundred dollars at the end of the year, after supporting their families and themselves.

62. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you mean by the occupation of their ground without their wages?—Yes, by the working of their grounds; after feeding their families.

63. Mr. *Hawes.*] A family consisting of how many?—A man and wife and two or three children.

64. You are understood to say, that their wages are very low in St. Vincent's in consequence of those advantages; what is the value of the advantages in money, if you can give it?—I look upon it, the value of the provision grounds depends entirely on the industry of the labourer; to some labourers the provision grounds would be almost useless; to others they are very useful, because they are industrious. I can tell what an acre of provision ground will bear, and what those provisions will sell for. There are some men in the island who let land to squatters; I think they generally get as much as 16 *l.* currency where it is a good piece of fertile land, which is about 7 *l.* sterling for an acre; but I am only speaking on hearsay as to that, I have never let land myself.

65. Mr. *Tennent.*] Are the labourers ever permitted to underlet?—No, not that I have known. I have known of a labourer purchasing land and subselling.

66. Lord

66. Lord *Stanley.*] What have you ever known paid for provision ground bought by labourers?—Where it was close to the estate I have known them pay 60 *l.* sterling for an acre.

67. Have you known them sub-let that?—I have known them sub-sell; they will get persons to come and divide, taking, perhaps, frequently a quarter.

68. Have you known 60 *l.* given in the first instance?—Yes.

69. You cannot state what the man got again for the land on sub-selling?—No; it was in the neighbourhood of an estate where they had been in the habit of living, and they wished to be often down at the land.

70. You believe that good land will let for 7 *l.* sterling an acre, per year?—Yes; I beg to say that I do not know that of my own knowledge.

71. Mr. *Hawes.*] How do you distribute the land among the Negroes, inasmuch as it must vary in quality, so as to fairly remunerate each with his wages for his labour?—If we have 500 acres of land, we pick out perhaps only 300 of that; we do not use the whole land, that not paying well.

72. Do you pick out land of an even quality?—Yes, as nearly as we possibly can; that is the system which has been going on during slavery.

73. *Chairman.*] You have distinguished the classes of labourers into three; what was the average attendance of labourers at work, per day, during the last three years of slavery?—Ten hours.

74. What was the number of hours, during the three last years of apprenticeship?—Nine.

75. What has it been since the 1st of January 1839?—The first year we got on the average about eight hours, the second year about seven and a half, and the third about seven.

76. What was the number of days each week, on the average, the labourer attended to work during the last three years of slavery?—An average of five days and a half; six days during half the year, and five days during the other half.

77. How was it during the last three years of apprenticeship?—We got five days from them, but we paid for 30 of those days.

78. What has it been during the last three years?—They take holidays whenever they please; I think the average may be taken to be about four in the week.

79. How many hours a day?—Seven the last year; we had seven and a half the second, and about eight the first year.

80. Can you state what were the hours at which they came to work and gave up work, during those respective periods?—They commonly commenced work at about a quarter before six in slavery; breakfast was carried to the field, and they had half an hour or three quarters, and left off at 12; they resumed at two, and left off at six; at one season of the year, when they were pushed, they were at work a quarter before two.

81. What was it in apprenticeship?—They commenced at six, took an hour to breakfast, and left off at 12; commenced again at two, and left off at six.

82. What is it now?—Now they commence at seven; they go off at nine to breakfast, and come out at half-past 10; work till 12, come out again till half past two, and work till six.

83. Of the number of labourers now employed on your estate, how many were on the same estate in a state of slavery?—I should think there must have been about a hundred.

84. What is the number on your estate?—I think the names on the pay-list are 130.

85. One-hundred of those were slaves?—Yes.

86. What proportion of those labourers have families or children?—That I cannot answer; I have no statement with me.

87. Mr. *Hawes.*] What was the total number of slaves you employed on your estate during slavery?—I think about 200 during apprenticeship; now we have about 130 names on the pay-list.

88. The same estate?—Yes.

89. *Chairman.*] Is the time now occupied in the cultivation of the estate greater or less than that occupied during the periods of slavery and apprenticeship?—Of course it must be less, on account of the number of labourers.

90. In what manner do you find yourselves by that difference in the manu-

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facture of sugar?—A want of regularity, and the impossibility of performing sufficient workin a sufficient time; sometimes sufficient canes are not cut, and then the people about the works are standing still, unable to do anything; at other times, though there are abundance of canes, there is an irregularity of attendance, and the mill cannot be put round. It would be entering into minutiæ to describe the number of different ways in which the temper is tried; I have before me a statement marked (C.) of the extent of land cultivated during slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, the crops made, and the returns per acre; this applies to this particular estate and another attached to it, to the Calder estate; in the years 1824, 1825, and 1826, there were 55 acres plants, 55 ratoons, and 35 second ratoons; during the last two years of apprenticeship there were 55, 50, and 15; the first year of freedom, 60, 55, and 10, but put in of course under a state of apprenticeship; the second year of freedom, 26, 60, and 10, and in 1841, 35, 26, and 29.

91. Lord *Stanley.*] Will you explain to the Committee what is meant by first and second ratoons?—Plant canes, during the first year in which canes are planted, are cut at the age of from 13 to 15 months; the stumps are then allowed to grow up and form a second crop, which are cut at the age of 10 to 11 months; second ratoons are when those stumps are allowed to grow up a second time and cut at the end of 11 months.

92. Do all the cane plants bear being treated in that manner?—It depends upon the richness of the soil; some land is too poor to bear more than a first ratoon, other lands will bear 10 and 20, not in St. Vincent's, but in other colonies.

93. In St. Vincent's you are not in the habit of going beyond second ratoons?—Not now, the land is too poor; there are some parts where you may find a rich piece, which will give a greater number.

94. Is there any material difference in the amount of productiveness of plant canes, and first and second ratoons?—Plant canes commonly give double what first and second ratoons do; first ratoons generally give more than second, but very trifling.

95. The produce of one acre of plant cane ought to be nearly equal to two of ratoons?—Yes.

96. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you mean to say that it was formerly the practice in St. Vincent's to have more ratoons than at present?—Yes, when the land was richer.

97. The land is now exhausted?—Very much; the crop made on the Calder estate (I have the average of 1824, 1825, and 1826) was 302 hogsheads, that was the average of three years; the average of the entire island those three years was 19,400. In 1834, 1835, and 1836, the average was 178 on Calder; the island made 13,050 on the average. The average of 1837 and 1838, the two last years of the apprenticeship, Calder made 240; the island 13,500. In 1839, Calder 248; the island 10,650. In 1840, Calder 146; the whole island 5,940.

98. Mr. *Hawes.*] To what do you attribute the falling off between 1839 and 1840?—The decrease of the plant canes is one very great cause, but I attribute it also to dry weather.

99. Do you attribute the decrease more to the dry weather than to the decrease of plant canes?—No, I do not; Calder has fallen from 60 acres of plant canes to 26 acres. Another estate next to it has fallen from 55 to 22 in plant canes. The plant canes of 1839 were put in under the apprenticeship. In 1841 the crop on Calder was 172 hogsheads; in the island 8,278.

100. You were understood to say that between 1839 and 1840, the falling off is attributable to the dry weather and the reduction in the number of plant canes?—Yes; a reduction in the extent of cultivation, and also the decrease of care taken in the cultivation; of course as labour decreased, less care was taken in the cultivation.

101. Mr. *Barclay.*] What production do you expect in 1842?—I expect Calder, which made last year 172, will make 200; but I cannot tell whether we shall receive it or not.

102. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you state at all the decrease of labour between 1839 and 1840, in the island of St. Vincent's?—I can produce a Return, marked (B.) which I happened to find among my papers, which will show what the decrease of labour was during the first five months of emancipation on Calder.

103. Can you give corresponding accounts of the labour at these periods, of the produce of the Island?—No, I cannot; I have taken merely the documents I happen to have with me; I left the West Indies nearly a year ago, I happened to bring home only certain documents with me; a return of the labour performed on the Calder estate in St. Vincent's for the first five months of freedom, from the 1st of August 1838 to the 1st of January 1839, by 85 labourers, of whom 58 in the first class, and 27 in the second; out of those five months, 126 working days, we did not work 34 out of the 126 by agreement; seven of the men stuck by the agreement, and worked 92 days; five men and three women worked 85, and took seven days without leave; four men and six women worked 82, and took 10 days without leave; seven men and six women worked 78 days, and took 14 days without leave; seven men and five women worked 72 days, and took 20 days without leave; one man and six women worked 68, and took 24 without leave; three men and five women worked 64, and took 28 without leave; two men and three women worked 58, and took 34 days without leave; one man and three women worked 54, and took 38; five women worked 46, and took 46; one man and five women worked 40, and took 52. In all, there was a loss in five months of 579 days of field labour of males, and 1,255 of females. There were 200 people attached to the estate at the commencement of freedom, without including the children made free at once by the Emancipation Act; of those 200, 178 were able to work, and 22 unable.

104. Mr. *Hawes.*] The period you are referring to, is from 1838 to 1839?—Yes; the first five months of entire freedom, from the 1st of August 1838 to the 1st of January 1839.

The Tables referred to by the Witness were delivered in, and read as follows:

(B.)

RETURN of the LABOUR performed on CALDER ESTATE, in *Saint Vincent*, during the first Five Months of Freedom, from 1st August 1838 to the 1st January 1839, by 85 Labourers, of whom 58 were First Class and 27 Second Class.

1	Males.	Females.	Number of Working Days in the Five Months.	Number of Days' Labour performed.	Days Absent without Leave.	Days Absent with Leave.	Average Number of Days per Week actually Worked.
Working in the Field - -	7	–	126	92	–	34	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto - -	5	3	–	85	7	–	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto - -	4	6	–	82	10	–	$4\frac{1}{10}$
Ditto - -	7	6	–	78	14	–	$3\frac{2}{10}$
Ditto - -	7	5	–	72	20	–	$3\frac{3}{5}$
Ditto - -	1	6	–	68	24	–	$3\frac{2}{5}$
Ditto - -	3	5	–	64	28	–	$3\frac{1}{5}$
Ditto - -	2	3	–	58	34	–	$2\frac{9}{10}$
Ditto - -	1	3	–	54	38	–	$2\frac{7}{10}$
Ditto - -	0	5	–	46	46	–	$2\frac{3}{10}$
Ditto - -	1	5	–	40	52	–	2
	38	47	–	739	273	–	–

There was a loss in five months of 579 days of field labour of males, and of 1,255 days of the labour of females, besides the number who ceased working entirely or quitted the estate. There were 200 people attached to the estate at the commencement of freedom, including the children made free at once by Mr. A., and of these 200, 178 were able to work, and 22 unable.

During the first five months only 125 worked, of whom eight were strangers; being 85 in the field irregularly as above, and 40 otherwise employed. About 60 ceased from labour on various accounts, many of whom continued on the estate without working.

About 150 had agreed to work for a year, but only 125 kept the agreement.

(C.)

EXTENT of LAND Cultivated on *Argyle* and *Calder*, during Slavery, Apprenticeship, and Freedom, and Crops made, and Return per Acre.

	Average Extent of Cultivation in, 1824, 1825, and 1826.					Average Extent of Cultivation in 1834, 1835, and 1836.					Extent of Cultivation, Average of 1837 and 1838.				
	Acres.			Sugar.		Acres.			Sugar.		Acres.			Sugar.	
	Plants	*Ratoons.*		*Hds. per Acre.*	*Hds.*	*Plants*	*Ratoons.*		*Hds. per Acre.*	*Hds.*	*Plants*	*Ratoons.*		*Hds. per Acre.*	*Hds.*
Argyle Estate - -	60	60	60	3 1¾ 1½	360 13 0 10	55	55	40	2½ 1½ 1	260 14 3 0	65	55	30	3¾ 2 1½	400 14 2 16
Calder Estate - -	55	55	35	3 1½ 1½	302 12 3 27	50	50	35	2 1 ¾	178	55	50	15	2¾ 1½ 1¼	240 14 0 22
Crops of Island - -	19,400 hogsheads.					13,050 hogsheads.					13,500 hogsheads.				

	Extent of Cultivation in First Year of Freedom, 1839.					Extent of Cultivation in Second Year of Freedom, 1840.					Extent of Cultivation in Third Year of Freedom, 1841.				
	Acres.			Sugar.		Acres.			Sugar.		Acres.			Sugar.	
	Plants	*Ratoons.*		*Hds. per Acre.*	*Hds.*	*Plants*	*Ratoons.*		*Hds. per Acre.*	*Hds.*	*Plants*	*Ratoons.*		*Hds. per Acre.*	*Hds.*
Argyle Estate - -	55	55	20	3 1¼ 1	260 14 2 22	22	55	15	2 1 1	115 14 2 15	34	22	28	2½ 1½ 1¼	154
Calder Estate - -	60	55	10	2½ 1½ 1½	248 14 0 0	26	60	10	2½ 1½ 1	146 14 1 18	35	26	29	2¾ 1½ 1¼	172
Crops of Island - -	10,650 hogsheads.					Supposed 5,940 hogsheads.					Supposed 3,278 hogsheads.				

The average weight of each hogshead of sugar is the net weight of sugar at time of delivery after sale.
No printed Returns have been received of Island crops, 1840 and 1841; but I am led to believe 6,000 and 8,000 hogsheads to be correct.

105. Mr. *Barclay.*] Can you form any estimate of what the probable crop of the whole island will be this year?—I think the 8,278 hogsheads may get up to about 9,000, from what I hear.

106. Lord *Stanley.*] You state that you lost, in the first year of freedom, a considerable number of hours upon one estate, from persons not acting up to their contract; in what manner did you visit that upon them?—At first we did it by taking some of them before the magistrates, and complaining that they had not fulfilled their contracts; but we very soon found that that tended more to disgust them than anything else, and policy taught us that we had better avoid going before the magistrates if possible.

107. Viscount *Howick.*] Did you merely stop their wages when they were absent?—Yes; if any fraudulent case occurred of men determined to leave, and not work at all, we took them before the magistrate and complained; but, generally speaking, we found it our interest to complain as little as possible, and certainly not pay wages when they would not work.

108. Was not their labour on their own grounds better to them than their labour on the estate?—Yes, that was the system that drew them away from us; their labour on their provision grounds was more valuable to them.

109. Lord *Stanley.*] What is the general extent of the island of St. Vincent?—I cannot state that precisely.

110. Is the island of St. Vincent pretty generally cultivated throughout, or is there a large portion of waste?—I think two-thirds is waste land; that is to say, it is mountain land and provision grounds.

111. Do you include in those two-thirds the provision grounds granted on the sugar estates?—Yes.

112. Are

112. Are you to be understood that the remaining one-third includes only that portion of the island in sugar cultivation?—So I understand: sugar cultivation and ground attached to the estate; I should consider there was one-third in estates and two-thirds unattached.

113. Is the Calder estate an average estate?—An average estate of second quality.

114. Is it alluvial land?—No, there is no flat land; it is a hilly estate.

115. Is that the general character of the island?—Yes; there are a certain number of exceptions.

116. You state that in the time of slavery there were 145 acres in cane, and that the last year there were 90 acres in cane; what is the whole extent of the estate?—165 acres of land fit to have canes.

117. You have stated that you never took more than two crops of ratoons; what becomes of the land after the second crop of ratoons?—Part is forced in for plants for the following year; it is merely opened and planted again: that is only such part as will bear this over cultivation, and which is near the works, on account of the convenience of not having much carting; another part is thrown out and suffered to rest, and another part is in provision grounds.

118. Will you state what is the rotation, if there is any, of crops which take place; what proportion is in sugar, and with regard to the land not in sugar, what is the process to bring it into heart again?—I will take the last year of apprenticeship; out of 165 acres we had, perhaps 125 were in canes.

119. You spoke of 165 acres, the whole of which is capable of having canes put in?—Yes.

120. And on the whole of which canes have been grown?—Yes; 20 would be in yams, of which 15 would have been in yams by the negroes, and five by the estate; the other would be what we call thrown out; it would be left to take plants from at the commencement of the following crops; the stumps would be allowed to come up but receive no cultivation until the commencement of planting for the following year, when they would be cut off to get plants.

121. Would that be the average distribution of the whole of the cane land?—Yes.

122. Is there no other process taken for the purpose of restoring the exhausted cane land, except its being allowed to be thrown out?—Also manured.

123. How is manure procured?—In the time of slavery we used to make what is called pen manure, quantities of grass and trash were collected. When apprenticeship came and our labour was diminished, the quantity applied to that purpose was reduced, and consequently the land began to deteriorate. In 1836, finding that, I commenced importing manure from England; I imported bone manure, and applied it to the land since 1837; the practice is now generally followed; bone manure, rape manure, bad salt fish are used, and lately we have tried other kinds of manure.

124. Year by year what would be the process a given acre would go through, according to your rotation of crops?—The first year it would have to be planted and manured, and we should expect, if it was tolerable land, three hogsheads from it; that we consider a tolerably good return; we should take a second crop off it in 11 months, which would give us a hogshead and a half; and in 12 months more take another crop off it, and that would give us a hogshead.

125. That acre goes through the three successive years of cultivation?—Yes.

126. What happens to it in the fourth year?—Then it would be most probably turned into yams.

127. With or without manure?—Without manure.

128. Is it ploughed or dug for yams?—The general system of the island is to dig it with a hoe, it is sometimes ploughed; I have ploughed a good many pieces which will admit of it on Argyle, the other estate is not ploughed very considerably.

129. What would be done the next year?—As soon as the yams are taken out, it is hoed, and canes are put in again.

130. Three years out of the four the land is in sugar, and the fourth it is in yams?—Yes.

131. For that produce those three years the land receives the amount of manure brought from England?—That is in addition to what we can make upon the estate.

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132. Is any portion of the estate in pasture land?—Yes; we have on Calder about 80 head of cattle, 26 head of mules, eight or 10 horses, and about 70 or 80 sheep.

133. What amount of land is allotted to that stock?—I suppose there must be 140 or 150 acres of very poor land, not fit for cultivation.

134. The manure made by that stock is expended upon 150 acres of pasture land, never used for sugar?—We are in the habit of bringing our stock off at night, and penning them from six at night to nine in the morning, or later; and again we bring them off in the middle of the day, at twelve, and keep them till two; and thus we create manure: we litter those pens, and we place the cattle on a corner of the land that is intended to be afterwards used for canes, so as to have little trouble in afterwards carrying it out; some we pen in a house close to the works, but that manure would not be sufficient for the land without importing some.

135. Is there any portion of Crown land in St. Vincent's?—A great deal.

136. To what amount?—I should think one-third of the island.

137. Crown land unoccupied?—Yes.

138. Is there in that a large portion of land capable of cultivation?—It would be very expensive to make roads to get to it; there are some very fine valleys in the interior, but it is almost impossible to get to them except on foot.

139. Have you any reason to think the negro population are squatting upon different parts of the island, and occupying vacant spaces?—Yes; the last packet has brought me information of numbers doing it; the system is going on to a great extent.

140. Is that squatting on Crown land, or occupation by labourers and others of land belonging to private individuals, permitted by them, for the purpose of acquiring their labour?—Land belonging to private individuals disposed of for the purpose of raising money; I mean by that, buying land of their own; doing that which they consider to better their own interests, buying small freeholds.

141. Is there any unauthorised occupation?—There has been, but not to any great extent.

142. That has not been made a prominent subject of complaint?—No; the land with unauthorised occupation is so difficult to get at, that the labourer finds it more for his interest to have the authorised occupation.

143. Do you find that when the negro has, after realising money, purchased land, he ceases to labour for wages, or that he continues to give a portion of his time working on the estate?—He will do job-work generally, but not canes; there is scarcely an instance of their cultivating canes. I have a letter from a manager, by the packet, who says he hardly knows an instance of negroes who have settled on lands of their own cultivating canes on estates, but they will do job-work, such as attending masons, and mending roads.

144. Upon the part of the negroes there appears to be no objection to labouring by job-work?—Not at what they consider honourable occupations. I look upon it that it is not the system of working, but the different occupation; they consider road-mending by no means a degrading occupation.

145. Do you consider that their reluctance to work in the field results from their considering it a degrading occupation, or its being less profitable?—I believe the real reason is, that it is less profitable; but there is also the other reason, in some instances.

146. Have you formerly attempted job-work?—Yes.

147. For what reason did you give it up?—Because they refused to do it any longer; they worked often two tasks, many one and a half, but they found it their interest, I suppose, to make use of as much time as they could from the estates, in cultivating provisions, provisions paying them better.

148. Was the amount they agreed to receive for task-work the same as they might have made by working the same time on their own account?—Just so.

149. Did you make the attempt on Calder, Argyle, or other estates, to give the negro an interest in the amount of the crop raised, either by allowing him and encouraging him to cultivate on his own estate, or paying him in kind?—No, I have never directly done so; I have given them presents according to the quantity of sugar made at the end of the year, but never otherwise.

150. You stated that you had known instances of negroes renting land, and paying a certain amount by the year?—Yes, but what that amount is I cannot speak to.

151. Have you had any offer, or made any offer to negroes to rent land for cultivation?—I have never made any.

152. Have you had any?—No.

153. Do you know any reason why that system should not be adopted?—The system, as published in Mr. Ross's pamphlet, could not be tried; and I do not think they would cultivate canes in preference to provisions, as long as provisions are so valuable as they are.

154. Does the Island of St. Vincent grow almost the whole of the provisions for its own population, or do you import?—The ground provisions they grow, but we import rice, and also wheat flour, Indian corn flour, and fish; and we export provisions to Barbadoes, and I think to Trinidad, though I cannot say to what extent.

155. Viscount *Howick*.] What do the provisions of the ordinary class of the population consist of?—The ordinary diet is what they raise themselves, and salt fish; they have no meal without salt fish or salt meat.

156. Lord *Stanley*.] Do you find any preference given to labour in the works over labour in the fields?—There are many negroes will engage in the labour in the works who will not engage in labour in the fields.

157. What is the average rate of wages paid for work in the field and in the works?—We pay the same for the labour in the field and the works, but extra hours are paid additional; but I should qualify what I have said, that many labourers will engage in the works; I should have said in the boiling-house, under cover.

158. At the same rate of wages that are paid to field labourers?—Yes, but we pay extra money for extra hours.

159. Have you ever had reason to complain of the works being left standing in consequence of the capricious absence of the labourers?—Yes, often.

160. Have you in any year been unable to get the whole of your canes off the ground?—Yes, in 1838 and 1839, just at the commencement of freedom; on Argyle, not on Calder; we could not get off our canes either year on that estate.

161. To what do you attribute the improvement in the amount you have taken off the last two years, and the anticipated improvement next year?—There were 34 acres of plants put in instead of 22; there was very dry weather in 1840; the weather was not quite so dry in 1841.

162. Can you give the Committee, in detail, the ordinary expenditure on a sugar estate in the Island of St. Vincent?—I have prepared the expenditure on those two estates, for the last five years; it is marked (G.) "Particulars of the Expenses of Argyle and Calder Estates. during two Years Apprenticeship and three Years of Freedom, and proportion of each Item paid by each Cwt. of Sugar, without deducting the value of Rum and Molasses." The figures are in pounds sterling; the total expenses of Argyle in 1837, 4,120*l*.

163. Viscount *Howick*.] What is the nature of the taxes?—The taxes are levied by the Legislature.

164. What is the nature of the tax?—It is put on every year; a tax raised to meet the expenses of the colony.

165. Is that a per-centage on the produce raised?—Yes.

166. What is the remainder?—It is an income tax.

167. Mr. *Hawes*.] What is the per-centage of the income tax?—It varies every year; last year it was two per cent.

168. How it that ascertained?—There are estimates given in of the amount necessary for the year; the last five or six years we have had the income tax.

169. What is the present amount?—I think two per cent.

170. Viscount *Howick*.] What is the amount of the tax on produce?—It is commonly the same; a return is given in by each estate every year of the number of pounds of sugar made; each hundred weight of sugar is valued at so much, and there is a per-centage charged upon that value.

171. In addition to the income tax?—Yes, separate altogether from that; that is a tax on every person in the island who possesses an income of 50*l*. sterling.

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172. *Chairman.*] Are you to be understood that during the years 1837 and 1838 the expense of cultivation per hundred weight of sugar was 14*s.* 1 *d.*, and that in the years 1839 and 1840 the expense of cultivation per hundred weight of sugar amounted to 33*s.* 1 *d.*?—Yes; this was the gross expense, without the deduction of rum and molasses. The other Table, marked (G.) will show the deduction for rum and molasses.

173. Mr. *Hawes.*] Are the 14*s.* 1*d.* and 33*s.* 1*d.* currency or sterling?—All sterling; 5*s.* 1*d.* was deducted from the 14*s.* 1*d.*, the total value of the rum and molasses; from the 33*s.* 1*d.*, 8*s.* 10*d.*

174. The cost of sugar on the Argyle estate was 9*s.* per hundred weight in 1837 and 1838; in 1839 and 1840, 24*s.* 3*d.*?—Yes.

175. Was that occasioned by an absolute increase of labour, or does it arise from the diminished produce of the estate?—It was the diminished produce, most decidedly; the cost of raising a hundred weight of sugar depends on the number of hundred weights raised.

176. Your answer applies to the cost of the produce of sugar in 1839 and 1840?—Yes, and 1841.

177. That being during the period of freedom?—Yes, three years of freedom.

178. *Chairman.*] It may be taken that altogether you find labour less continuous now than it was during the periods of slavery and apprenticeship?—Less continuous.

179. How is the estate prejudiced by the labour being less continuous?—I think I have already answered that question. If we are manufacturing sugar, sufficient canes may not be cut, in consequence of a sufficient number of persons not having come out to cut them. If we are cultivating land at the time we are about to weed, we may find that we have not a sufficient number of people to do it in the period, and our work may fall behind; and that was the ground on which I stated that the want of care in the cultivation has deteriorated the crops, as well as the diminished extent; we cannot take the same care of what we do cultivate.

180. Have you employed immigrants on your plantation?—In 1837 I introduced some white ploughmen from Scotland, with English horses to plough.

181. In what manner were they introduced?—The first three that came were under indentures to work three years.

182. Did you send for them?—I did. Three came the first year; I had five in 1837, four on Argyle and one on Calder.

183. What were the terms on which they were hired?—The average terms were 30*l.* sterling wages, and finding them in food and lodging. That was found inconvenient, and it was altered; and we gave them an average of 50*l.* sterling—£.45 in money, and other allowances, making about 50*l.* sterling, and they found themselves.

184. How many have you had altogether; were those five the whole you had?—No, we had four more in 1839.

185. What have been their habits, and conduct, and general manner?—Generally speaking they behaved well; two behaved ill, and took to drinking.

186. Did you find that they associated with the labourers who had been on the estate previously?—No, not much.

187. Did they bring their families with them?—Yes; three of them, I think, had wives.

188. Did you find them able to work?—I consider them perfectly able to work, if they keep from drinking. When we were pushed they used to work during the greatest part of the day, apparently without suffering.

189. Did they do as much work as the negroes who had been previously on the estate?—Much more; but the work they did was a kind of work that required more attention than real hardship.

190. Mr. *Hawes.*] Did it generally answer as a speculation?—I considered that it did answer, because we had them at a time when we were most in want of hands.

191. Are they still working for you?—A certain number of them are. The greater number are out of their time. One is appointed a manager; others have found better wages, and have gone elsewhere.

192. On the whole you have found it answer to employ Scotch immigrants and English horses, to do the work of cultivation?—Yes; but I should consider it

it a much more expensive system than our old system of cultivation under slavery, or our present, under wages to the black people.

193. Viscount *Howick.*] Have any of the negroes managed to hold a plough? —One of them; but some of them said it was too hard work to hold a plough. I could only persuade one man to do it; I believe it depends on the skill very much; it is much less labour to a skilful man than to an unskilful one. Those who have been out of their time have been generally promoted; one has become a manager, another is an overseer; they generally look to a rise.

194. Have they risen in your service?—One I made an overseer after he had served me four years; he had been overseer about six months when he was made a manager.

195. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Do you consider their health affected by the climate?—They told me it was not, except those who took to drinking; two took to drinking; one of them died.

196. *Chairman.*] What is the whole number you had?—Probably, I had nine altogether, nine agriculturists; and I had two tradesmen out, a blacksmith and a carpenter; they both died. The blacksmith took to drinking; the carpenter, a very steady man, caught a fever.

197. Lord *Stanley.*] Have you had any introduction of other labourers from other islands into St. Vincent's?—I think not to any extent.

198. Nor from the United States?—No.

199. Has there been any emigration from St. Vincent's to any other colonies? —Very slight; a few may have gone to Trinidad; but I should think there were not many.

200. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is there any local impediment to emigration?—No; they are very much attached to the island, and to their location.

201. There is no legal impediment?—There is what is called an Emigration Act.

202. Lord *Stanley.*] Have there been any instances of the negroes in St. Vincent's purchasing land, except in small lots?—No.

203. None combining to buy an estate?—No.

204. In the course of the last 10 or 12 years, what do you consider to have been the alteration in value of land, compared with the year 1833, or previous to the year 1833; what was the price at which sugar land would then sell, and at which it would sell now?—I consider sugar estates are a good deal depreciated in value; mountain ground must be considered to have risen in value, on account of the demand for it.

205. To what extent have sugar estates become depreciated?—I should think one-third.

206. What amount per acre have you ever known sugar estates sold at?— I could not answer that question, for it is very seldom that estates are sold in that way; it is commonly an estate making so many hogsheads of sugar.

207. Viscount *Howick.*] The value of a sugar estate depends very much on the state of the buildings, does it not?—It depends more upon the produce it will afford; for, if the buildings are out of repair, they know that if the produce is good, they can be easily repaired.

208. Mr. *Hawes.*] You have said that there is an Emigration Act; can you give the particulars of that?—It is printed in No. 4 of the Papers before the Committee.

209. Lord *Stanley.*] Can you state the comparative amount of exports and imports for St. Vincent's for the last 10 years?—No; I know that the imports have increased.

210. What description of imports have increased?—British manufactures; what we call dry goods.

211. Have they increased largely?—Yes, I think to a very large extent since emancipation.

212. In what way have they been paid for?—I consider that one reason why the import has taken place is, that the labourer has had more money to lay out on purchasing goods; the labourer has participated in the profits of the proprietor, which used to come to this country, on account of receiving wages instead of a certain amount of allowances; therefore he has had more money to lay out in the purchase of goods.

213. *Chairman.*] Can you tell the Committee what is the ratio of the increase? —No; I know that there is an increase.

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214. Mr. *Stuart.*] Can you state whether a man is much better off living in that country than he would be as a ploughman at home?—The ploughman has no grounds, therefore he is forced to buy all his provisions; but he is certainly better off than the ploughman here, but not to the difference and extent that would appear, from the wages the ploughmen have stated; the price they pay to the negroes for vegetables is very high, and that the 20 *l.* would hardly compensate them.

215. Mr. *Hawes.*] The Emigration Act to which you refer requires a security of 20 *l.*?—There never has been an instance of that Emigration Act being acted on.

216. Has there been no desire, on the part of the people, to emigrate?—About 100 have emigrated; but they have not found it to their interest, and many of them have come back.

217. Mr. *Barclay.*] Have there been many immigrants introduced from Scotland besides those you introduced?—No; I think perhaps about a dozen; it is considered an expensive system of labour.

218. You spoke of a depreciation in the value of sugar estates; has that arisen exclusively from the diminished supply of labour?—I think so, and from the uncertainty where the diminished supply will stop.

219. You consider that the sole reason?—I think a great part of the reason may also be a degree of panic. Proprietors are in doubt where the evil will stop. They see the amount of labour year after year diminishing, and they do not know how to check the evil.

220. Has there been no exhaustion of the land itself to which the depreciation may be in part attributed?—Yes; but that would tend to increase the expenses of the estate, but not to alarm the proprietor, because there is a remedy for it in the shape of manure.

221. An increase of expense is tantamount to a diminution of profit?—Unless it can be shown, as it can be, as to the application of manure, the expense is amply repaid by the return.

222. Then there is no increased expenditure?—A nominal increase of expenditure. The amount of expense of cultivation, in fact, will be greater, but the return in produce will be greater too.

223. *Chairman.*] You never rest your land by letting it lie fallow?—We do not. I can give evidence of an estate where they do that; but there are very few estates where they can afford it.

224. As you cannot give rest, you endeavour to attain it by manure?—Yes, by an extra quantity of manure.

225. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you give the cost of a hogshead of sugar for the three periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom?—I can give the cost during apprenticeship and freedom, but, unfortunately, I have not the means of giving it for slavery; but there can be very little difference between slavery and apprenticeship.

226. What is the average cost of a hogshead of sugar in the time of apprenticeship and freedom?—One of the tables before me contains the average cost in apprenticeship and freedom on Argyle, and the net weight paid for by the purchaser.

227. *Chairman.*] Will you give a detailed statement of the entire system of cultivation of a sugar estate?—The land is prepared for lining and holing by being weeded and stumped; that is, the stumps of the old canes dug out. It is then lined and staked, say 4½ feet across by 4 feet lengthways, but the dimensions of the holes vary. It is then holed, that is, a long trench is dug 4½ feet wide at the top; the mould taken out of the trench is heaped up to form a bank, called the main bank, and the soil is dug from six to ten inches deep according to the quality; a mark is also left at each four feet in length. This long trench may be very well made by means of the plough. The labourers next pick plants, which are the three top joints of canes, and which are commonly separated at the time the cane is cut to make sugar. The plants are dropped along the hole or trench, four being laid at each four-feet mark left by the hoe. The next operation is crop-holing, which is done by widening the bottom of the hole and digging it a little deeper, raising at the same time a cross bank nearly on a level with the top of the main bank, and much less labour is required to throw it out; about six weeks after the manure has been applied a weeding is given, and care taken to pull the grass out from between the several shoots in the cane-hole; in about six weeks more a second weeding is given, and a little of the dead trash taken off the roots; in six weeks more the first

regular stripping of trash is given, and the canes are well bedded in case they fall over; and in six weeks more another stripping is given, which is the last operation required until the canes reach maturity. About 45 weeks have been employed in the cultivation of the plant cane, which is left for about three or four months more to ripen, without anything further being necessary. Then with respect to ratoon canes: when a field of canes is cut from which it is intended to take another crop called ratoon, the trash is hauled from off the cane shoots upon the main bank, provided the weather is not too dry, and left there for six months; at the end of that period the young shoots have time to spring up, and a trench is then dug in front of the cane stools all along the row, in the centre of what was the main bank, and the trash is buried in it. This operation can be very well performed with the plough, by running it along the main bank and laying it open, when the trench is hauled in and covered over. Six weeks after hoe-ploughing the first weeding is given, and the roots are cleared from grass, but no trash is taken off of the shoots; it is advantageous to bury the weeds now. In six weeks more the second weeding is given, and then a little trash is taken off; and in eight weeks more a stripping is given, which is generally the last operation required by ratoon canes, unless they are heavy, when they may need a second stripping. It is not customary to manure ratoon canes, owing to scarcity of manure; but from experiments I have tried, I consider it would prove very profitable to afford a supply of manure to all the best first ratoons, whilst at the same time it would save labour.

228. Will you state the process observed in manufacturing sugar?—The canes are cut and carted to the mill three days before commencing to grind, in order that there may be a sufficient supply for the week's work. When the manufacture begins, the canes are ground in the mill, and the juice conveyed by spouting into a large boiler called a clarifier, passing previously through two strainers. In this clarifier it is slightly heated, and then run down through a strainer into a lower clarifier, where sufficient temper is applied to crack it, and the liquor is heated almost to the boiling point, during which time the mucilage rises to the top in the form of scum, and floats there so long as the liquor does not boil. It is then run off through a strainer into the largest of a series of five coppers, called the Grand Copper, from which it is gradually transferred to each successive copper, skimming or brushing it all the time, until it reaches the first copper, called the Tarche, where the greatest heat is, as the fire is made directly under it, and where it is boiled to syrup of a consistency fit for striking. When ready, a copper pan, made to fit this tarche, and called the Skipping Pan, is let down, and takes up most of the syrup out of the tarche, which is immediately charged with a fresh supply of liquor from the second tarche, and the boiling proceeds. The syrup in the skipping tarche is then let down through a valve into a spout which conducts it to a large wooden cooler, where it is slowly stirred three different times whilst granulating. There are commonly four coolers, and one strike is not allowed to run on the top of another until that other has granulated and cooled to a certain extent. After a cooler is full, it is allowed to stand for about eight or ten hours, and then the sugar is cut up with shovels and carried in pails on people's heads into the curing-house, to be dropped into hogsheads, which operation is called potting. Three weeks are given to allow the molasses to drain out of the hogsheads, and then the sugar is considered fit for shipping. Such is the imperfect process of manufacture generally pursued in St. Vincent, one very little modified from what has been followed during the last 50 years. From an examination I have lately made of the mode of manufacture in Barbadoes and Santa Cruz, as well as in English refineries, I consider the St. Vincent mode of manufacture capable of great improvement, though at the same time, owing to the peculiarity of the soil, the sugar cannot be made of a similar quality to Barbadoes, Antigua, or Santa Cruz.

229. What description of machinery is introduced?—Ploughs have been made use of to assist the agriculture, and we have introduced cane-carriers and railways for carrying mogass.

230. What is mogass?—The refuse of the cane after being squeezed; the woody fibre of the cane after the juice is extracted.

231. Is the use of that machinery generally prevalent in the colony?—The introduction of such machinery is now commencing.

232. Do you think machinery can be made use of to a greater extent than it now is?—In the manufacturing process, but not, I think, in agriculture.

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233. What is the ground of that opinion?—The most laborious part of the manufacturing process is that of carrying the canes by manual labour into the mill-house to be ground, and afterwards carrying the refuse of the cane called mogass from the mill to the mogass-house, where it is left to dry before being made use of to boil the sugar. Generally speaking, on large estates, 11 persons are employed in such work only every second day, being relieved by what is called a fresh spell; it is a work the labourers dislike very much, especially since freedom, on account of its being really hard work, and often requiring 13 or 14 hours' attendance, of which about 12 are spent in labour. The substitution of a revolving cane-carrier, worked by the same power which turns the mill, enables the canes to be brought directly into the mill to be crushed. Only two people are required to throw the canes upon the cane-carrier, and it revolves; if the mill is grinding well, perhaps three may be required. The substitution of a wooden railway leading from the mill to the mogass-house enables one man with a waggon to carry as much mogass in a day as five used to carry on their heads, and with greater ease to himself than if he had been one of the five so employed; an additional man is required to tie mogass where it is to be heaped on stacks in the open air, that it may be dried more quickly. The railway may also be employed on many estates for carrying the dry fuel from the mogass-house to the copper-hole, where the fire is made. Machinery may also be substituted for the present system of carrying the sugar on people's heads to be potted in the hogsheads. Machinery cannot however be very extensively applied to the cultivation of the cane, on account of its peculiar nature. The plough may be successfully made use of in turning up the soil and arranging it in the manner called holing; cross-holing and planting must however be performed by manual labour, as well as all subsequent operations required by plant-canes. The plough is very useful in hoe-ploughing ratoon canes, and I have extensively made use of it for that purpose, but I have found no machine capable of weeding the ratoon cane after it has been hoe-ploughed, without breaking the young shoots, although I have tried several kinds made use of in England, for turnips and potatoes; manual labour is absolutely necessary for the cane cultivation, after the preliminary processes of holing or hoe-ploughing.

234. Mr. *Barclay.*] Have you ever tried horse hoes?—Yes; a horse hoe is used for turnips and potatoes; I have tried one of the last Scotch inventions, and also an English one, sent out from Bristol, and another from Glasgow; but if you go too close to the cane you get entangled with the cane, for the shoots often run up sometimes at an angle of 45°, and some of them get broken, and it requires the hand to be put in to pull out the grass from the shoots.

235. Mr. *Smith.*] Have you found persons willing to use machinery?—No; there is a necessity of being driven out of an old custom; but I think the distress from the want of labour has induced a good many to turn their attention that way.

236. *Chairman.*] Is it possible to reduce the quantity of cane land now in cultivation on an estate, and to seek an equal return therefrom by increased labour and skill bestowed on the land retained, and by the diminished expenses consequent on such reduction; and will you state in detail the answer to that question?—No doubt exists in my own mind that the extent of cane cultivation might be reduced in all islands (where the land is deteriorated in quality,) fully one-fourth, by the application of a better system of agriculture, and a sufficient quantity of manure. The expenses incurred would be of course higher, on account of the value of the manure purchased being included, but the return in sugar and molasses would repay a profit of from 300 to 400 per cent. in three years, unless prevented by dry weather; at least, such I have found to be the case in St. Vincent. In 1836, I commenced using imported manures on Calder, for crop 1837, and have continued the use of them ever since. During slavery, and the first two years of apprenticeship, 22 estates made more sugar than Calder. The first year that imported manure was applied, Calder passed three of the 22 estates in its crop; the second year, 1838, it passed eight of them; the third year, 1839, it passed 17 of them; and the fourth year, 1840, it passed 15 of them, leaving only three double and five single estates superior to it in crops, of which five used imported manure; in 1841, I believe, eight of the 22 estates made more sugar than Calder, and that all of these made use of imported manures, but I have not had the returns for that year. The cause why imported manures must now be used in St. Vincent, is partly on account of deficiency of labour and admitting

See Statement (D)

admitting of the manufacture of a sufficient supply of pen-manure, and partly on account of the soil having been very much deteriorated by a forced cultivation during the last 10 years. During slavery, managers were enabled, on account of the abundance of labour, to make a sufficient quantity of pen-manure for the land, by the collection of trash and grass to litter the cattle-pens. As labour decreased, less time could be spared for this essential purpose, and the soil, on most estates, became rapidly deteriorated in quality by over cropping, so that in 1830 (before the hurricane) the crops of the island had fallen from an average of about 19,400 to 16,800 hogsheads; subsequently the amount of agricultural labour being still further diminished by the system of apprenticeship, and a still less portion of it being available for the manufacture of manure, the crops fell to about 13,150 hogsheads during the years 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, and 1838, although the extent of land cultivated in three years is very little less than in the time of slavery.

237. Can you furnish a statement of the ordinary current expenses and charges incurred on a sugar plantation in the colony?—I can.

(*The several Accounts referred to by the Witness were delivered in, and read as follows:*)

(D.)

	SLAVERY PERIOD.			Apprenticeship.	First Application of Imported Manure to Crop, 1837 (a).				
	Average of 5 Years, 1820–24.	Crop, 1828.	Crop, 1829.	Crop, 1836.	Crop, 1837.	Crop, 1838.	Crop, 1839.	Crop, 1840.	Crop, 1841.
	Lib.	*Lib.*	*Lib.*	*Lib.*	*Lib.*	*Lib.*	*Lib.*	*Lib.*	*Lib.*
Calder Estate	415,000	481,000	400,000	292,000	400,000	408,000	417,000	250,000	
Adelphi (double estate)	690,000	801,000	630,000	378,000	446,000	426,000	486,000	*190,600	used manure. 330,200
Colonarce	494,000	541,000	434,000	428,000	422,000	*398,000	403,000	*177,200	*208,000
Grand Sable (double estate)	607,000	650,000	525,000	726,000	676,000	674,000	412,000	365,700	363,800
Langley Park	605,000	556,000	604,000	357,000	405,000	416,000	361,000	279,900	*268,900
Lot 14	646,000	516,000	649,000	327,000	427,000	*389,000	332,000	*178,400	316,900
Mr: Bentinck	749,000	494,000	564,000	412,000	442,000	*40,200	244,000	*178,500	used manure. *100,100
Mrs. Geonan	520,000	767,000	436,000	367,000	401,000	*389,000	332,000	*195,800	*186,200
Orange Hill	519,000	416,000	668,000	351,000	419,000	411,000	312,000	265,600	*259,600
Park Hill	396,000	622,000	490,000	320,000	*365,000	*352,000	263,000	used manure. *108,300	*240,776
Peruira Vale (double estate)	562,000	764,000	517,000	340,000	402,000	413,000	393,000	278,000	*271,100
Rabaca	692,000	573,000	721,000	430,000	415,000	456,000	334,000	used manure. *186,100	used manure. 326,600
Sans Souce	547,000	940,000	452,000	405,000	438,000	470,000	340,000	*245,600	*200,400
Tourama	797,000	106,200	806,000	450,000	649,000	557,000	483,000	440,300	441,100
Union (double)	802,000	662,000	780,000	622,000	703,000	705,000	541,000	used manure. 316,500	used manure. 359,600
Waterloo	615,000	601,000	615,000	499,000	417,000	475,000	407,000	used manure. 435,300	used manure. 420,400
Argyle	540,000	682,000	526,000	414,000	740,000	640,000	442,000	used manure. *187,700	used manure. *270,600
Arnos Vale	578,000	489,000	564,000	614,000	*628,000	576,000	420,000	207,000	307,200
Belvedere	372,000	517,000	421,000	413,000	377,000	*360,000	279,000	*108,700	*186,900
M. Pleasant	416,000	- - -	488,000	446,000	434,000	*401,000	355,000	*191,400	*224,400
Cane Grove	422,000	640,000	538,000	591,000	441,000	no return.	410,000	*204,800	*192,000
Rutland Vale	576,000	546,000	438,000	300,000	301,000	366,000	341,000	*197,700	*224,500
Richmond	588,000	755,000	723,000	478,000	410,000	441,000	297,000	*190,300	*258,000
Crops of Island	*Hds.* 18,128	*Hds.* 19,960	*Hds.* 17,500	*Hds.* 12,684	*Hds.* 133,000	*Hds.* 13,700	*Hds.* 10,650	Supposed, 6,000; Actual, 1840, 5,940 *hds.*	Supposed, 8,000; Crops, 1841, 8,278 *hds.*

(a) *1837—20* hogsheads of bones and oil.
1838—50 hogsheads of bones and rape cake. Shipped, **391,000**: lost by Clift, **17,000**.
1839—60 hogsheads of bones and rape cake.
1840—60 hogsheads of manure.
1841—70 hogsheads of manure.

(E.)

RETURN of the Cost of Production of SUGAR on Plantation *Argyle*, in Colony of *St. Vincent*, during Apprenticeship and Freedom.

State of People.	YEARS.	Able to Work.	Aged and Incurable Children not included.	Total Number of Labourers.	Amount of Wages paid in Money.	Allowance of Fish, Clothing, and Doctor, &c.	Total Cost of Labour.	Colonial Supplies.	Emigrants.	Manure.	Supplies from Great Britain, and Insurance.	Total Cost of producing Crop.	Value of Rum and Molasses deducted.	Cost of producing Sugar.	Crop of Sugar.	Average Cost of producing Sugar per Cwt.	REMARKS.
Apprenticeship.	1st August 1836 to 1837 -	192	26	218	£. 190	£. 495 (258 *l.* 182 *l.* 55 *l.*)	£. 685	1,263	262	230	1,680	£. 4,120 12/11	£. 1,460 4/7	£. 2,660 8/4	434 hgds. 6,401 cwts. 14. 3. 0.	8/4	Crop in last three years of Slavery: 1831 - - 281 hgds 1832 - - 266 — 1833 - - 200 — Reduced by the hurricane of 1831. £. 340. has been deducted from the price of a new water mill, which cost 540 *l.* equal to 7 *d.* per cwt. on the average of the two years. £. 200. has been deducted from the price of a new still, which cost 250 *l.*, equal to 6 *d.* per cwt, on the average of the three years. In 1839, at one period there were only about 80 people at work on the estate, and cultivation almost ceased in consequence.
	to 1838 -	189	24	213	199	524 (285 *l.* 184 *l.* 55 *l.*)	723	1,811	350	325	918	4,127 15/5	1,550 5/10	2,577 9/7	368 hgds. 5,350 cwts. 14. 2. 4.	9/7	
	Average of two years.	191	25	216	195	509	704	1,537	306	278	1,299	4,123 14/1	1,505 5/1	2,618 9/	401 hgds. 5,875 cwts. 14. 2. 16.	9/	
		At work.	Not at work.														
Freedom.	1st Aug. 1838 to 1839 -	*140	50	190	1,038	144 (114 *l.* 30 *l.*)	1,182	1,626	250	238	816	4,112 21/6	1,408 20/6	2,704 14/2	260 hgds. 3,820 cwts. 14. 2. 22.	14/2	
	to 1840 -	140	- -	- -	1,022	149 (119 *l.* 30 *l.*)	1,171	1,941	290	240	850	4,492 53/4	1,307 15/6	3,185 37/10	115 hgds. 1,697 cwts. 14. 2. 15.	37/10	
	to 1841 -	150	- -	- -	1,075	183 (153 *l.* 30 *l.*)	1,258	1,825	111	277	882	4,353 37/4	761 6/6	3,592 36/10	154 hgds. 2,330 cwts. 15. 0. 14.	30/10	
	Average of three years.	143	- -	- -	1,045	158	1,203	1,797	217	252	850	4,319	1,159	3,160	176 hgds. 2,607 cwts. 14. 3. 7.	24/3	
					Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Increase.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	
Decrease and Increase under Freedom.		48	- -	- -	850	351	499	260	89	26	449	196	346	542	225 hgds. 3,268 cwts.	15/3	

* About 170 labourers promised in 1838 to work for a year, but only about 140 kept their promise.

(F.)

RETURN of the Cost of Production of Sugar on Plantation *Calder*, in the Colony of *St. Vincent*, during Apprenticeship and Freedom.

State of People.	YEARS.	Able to Work.	Aged and Incurable, Children not included.	Total Number of Labourers.	Amount of Wages Paid in Money.	Allowance of Fish, Clothing, and Doctor.	Total Cost of Labour.	Colonial Supplies.	Emigrants.	Manure.	Supplies from Great Britain, and Insurance.	Total Cost of producing Crop.	Value of Rum and Molasses deducted.	Cost of producing Sugar.	Crop of Sugar, and Weight.	Average Cost of producing Sugar per Cwt.	REMARKS.
					£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.			
Apprenticeship.	1st Aug. 1836 to 1837 -	184	24	208	144	435 (203 *l.* 182 *l.* 50 *l.*)	579	832	150	350	1,204	3,115 18/1	1,062 6/3	2,053 11/10	243 hgds. 3,450 cwts. 14. 0. 22.	11/10 *	The Crops during the last three Years of Slavery: 1831 - - - 194 1832 - - - 198 1833 - - - 214 Reduced by the hurricane of 1821. £. 300 has been deducted from the expenses of 1837, being part cost of erecting a steam-engine: equal to 10 *d.* per cwt. on average.
	to 1838 -	179	21	200	171	512 (280 *l.* 182 *l.* 50 *l.*)	683	966	169	409	1,082	3,309 20/3	1,037 6/4	2,272 13/11	230 hgds. 3,265 cwts. 14. 0. 22.	13/11	
	Average of two years.	181	22	204	158	473	631	899	160	380	1,143	3,213 19/2	1,050 6/4	2,163 12/10	237 hgds. 3,357 cwts. 14. 0. 22.	12/10	
		At work.	Not at work.														
Freedom.	1st Aug. 1838* to 1839 -	125	45	165	929	121 (96 *l.* 25 *l.*)	1,050	1,294	196	388	796	3,724 21/6	1,478 8/6	2,246 13/	248 hgds. 3,472 cwts. 14. 0. 0.	13/	£. 170 has been deducted from the expense of 1840, being part cost of a new still, which cost 230 *l.*, equal to 5*d.* per cwt. on the average.
	to 1840 -	130	- -	- -	875	125 (100 *l.* 25 *l.*)	1,000	1,344	180	407	907	3,838 36/6	1,566 15/	2,272 21/6	146 hgds. 2,104 cwts. 14. 1. 18.	21/6	
	to 1841 -	125	- -	- -	946	130 (105 *l.* 25 *l.*)	1,076	1,269	59	472	845	3,721 29/8	780 6/3	2,941 23/5	172 hgds. 2,508 cwts. 14. 2. 9.	23/5	
	Average of three years.	126	- -	- -	917	125	1,042	1,303	145	422	849	3,762 28/	1,275 9/6	2,487 18/6	188 hgds. 2,694 cwts. 14. 1. 9.	18/6	
Increase under Freedom		- -	- -	- -	759	- -	411	404	- -	42	- -	549	225	324	- -	5/8	
Decrease under Freedom		- -	- -	55	- -	348	- -	- -	15	- -	294	- -	- -	- -	49 hgds. 663 cwts.		

* In 1838 about 150 people promised to work during a year, but only about 125 kept their promise.

(G.)

PARTICULARS of the EXPENSES of *Argyle* and *Calder* Estates, during Two Years Apprenticeship and Three Years of Freedom, and Proportion of each Item paid by each Cwt. of Sugar, without deducting the Value of Rum and Molasses.

	1837.		1838.		Average.		Proportion per Cwt. of Sugar.		1839.		1840.		1841.		Average.		Proportion per Cwt. of Sugar.	
	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder.	Argyle.	Calder,
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.
Salt-fish	258	203	285	280	271	242	– 11	1 5	114	96	119	100	153	105	128	100	/11½	/9
Lumber	87	43	254	160	171	101	– 9	– 7	393	284	391	233	441	236	408	251	3/2	2/
Staves and Puncheons	283	40	283	120	283	80	– 11½	– 6½	93	75	165	121	146	80	135	92	1/	/8½
Wages	190	144	199	171	194	158	– 8½	– 11½	1,038	929	1,022	875	1,075	946	1,045	917	8/	6/9
White emigrants (9 ploughmen, 2 tradesmen)	262	150	350	169	306	160	– 1½	– 11½	250	196	290	180	111	59	217	145	1/8	1/1
Stock	173	167	201	291	187	229	– 7½	1 4	27	92	305	222	259	110	197	141	1/6	1/1
Doogherage	96	83	63	42	79	62	– 3½	– 4½	84	75	42	42	5	5	43	41	/4	/3½
Taxes	45	30	104	51	75	41	– 3	– 3	88	50	123	76	177	198	130	108	1/	/10
Repairing mill-coppers and buildings	6	77	174	138	90	108	– 4	– 7	47	23	186	99	60	63	98	62	/9	/5½
Sundries	115	149	138	180	127	164	– 3	1 –	324	233	257	156	286	169	289	186	2/3	1/4
Invoices of stores and machipery	1,526	1,008	902	647	1,254	827	4 3	5 –	566	576	700	727	754	705	673	670	5/2	5/
Manure	230	350	325	409	278	380	– 11½	2 3½	238	388	240	407	277	472	252	422	1/10½	/3½
Insurance, rent, &c.	336	196	200	180	218	188	– 9	1 1½	250	220	150	180	128	140	176	180	1/4	1/3½
Salaries	513	475	650	470	581	473	2 –	2 9	600	486	502	421	481	433	528	447	4/1	3/3
TOTAL	4,120	3,115	4,127	3,309	4,124	3,213	14 1	19 2	4,112	3,724	4,492	3,838	4,353	3,721	4,319	3,762	33/1	28/

£. 340 has been deducted from the Argyle account in 1837, being part expense of a new water-mill, purchased that year for 540 *l.*, 7 *d.* or average; and 200 *l.* has been deducted from Argyle account in 1839, being part expense of a new still, which cost 250 *l.*, equal 6 *d.* or average.
£. 300 has been deducted from Calder account in 1837, being part expense of erecting a steam-engine this year, equal to 10 *d.* in the average.
£. 170 has been deducted from Calder account in 1840, being part expense of purchasing a new still, which cost 230 *l.*, equal 5 *d.* in the average.

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(H.)

ESTIMATE of the EXPENSES of *Argyle* and *Calder* Estates, with sufficient Labour to produce Average Crops.

	ARGYLE.		CALDER.	
	Amount.	Proportion per Hhd.	Amount.	Proportion per Hhd.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Salt fish	125 – –	– 7 2	100 – –	– 8 –
Lumber	230 – –	– 13 2	150 – –	– 12 –
Staves and puncheons	250 – –	– 14 3	140 – –	– 11 3
Wages	1,450 – –	4 2 11	1,100 – –	4 8 –
White ploughmen and tradesmen	150 – –	– 8 7	50 – –	– 4 –
Stock	250 – –	– 14 3	200 – –	– 16 –
Salaries	500 – –	1 8 7	440 – –	1 13 –
Taxes	120 – –	– 6 10	100 – –	– 8 –
Repairing mill and copper, &c.	150 – –	– 8 7	100 – –	– 8 –
Sundries	175 – –	– 10 –	120 – –	– 9 7
Invoices	550 – –	1 11 5	600 – –	2 8 –
Manure	350 – –	1 – –	450 – –	1 16 –
Insurance, rent, &c.	250 – –	– 14 3	195 – –	– 15 7
£.	4,550 – –	13 – –	3,745 – –	14 19 8
Produce expected with sufficient Labour	350 hhds.	230 punchs.	250 hhds.	165 punchs.
Average Gross Cost of Production	18/ per cwt.		21/ per cwt.	
Value of Proportion of Offals	6/ per lb.		6/ per lb.	
Remainder of Expenses, being the actual Cost of producing Sugar	12/ per cwt.		15/ per cwt.	

	s.	d.
With sufficient labour, the net cost of producing sugar on a fertile estate like Argyle	12	–
Ditto ditto on an estate like Calder	15	–
Ditto ditto on an estate making less the 100 hhds.	17	6

238. Can you state what was the quantity of sugar made in the last three years of slavery, in the last three years of apprenticeship, and since freedom?—In 1832, 1833, and 1834, the average produce of the island was 14,020 hogsheads; in 1835, 1836, and 1837, 13,130 hogsheads; in 1839, 1840, and 1841, 8,290.

239. Mr. *Hawes.*] During those latter years unusually dry weather prevailed, did there not?—Not during 1839, but during 1840 and 1841.

240. *Chairman.*] Are you subject in St. Vincent's to frequent returns of dry weather to an extent to be injurious to cultivation?—No, it is not the case that we are subject to it; but we have had more in 1840 and 1841 than we have had for many previous; the island is very regular in its seasons.

241. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you give an estimate of the effect of the dry weather upon the crops, either of the island or of the estates to which you have referred?—Yes; one of the tables I have put in will show that by the average return per acre in different years.

242. *Chairman.*] Are those two estates near each other?—Adjoining, but one on the sea coast and the other inland.

243. Are they average estates?—I consider Argyle an average of the best estates, and Calder of the second best.

244. Have you considered whether it is practicable to reduce any of the expenses at present incurred in the cultivation and management of sugar?—The expenses of estates may be partially reduced by using greater economy, especially in the article of lumber, which has been very high of late on account of the number of new negro houses erected; but not to an extent sufficient to affect materially the cost of raising each hundred weight of sugar, because such cost is, comparatively speaking, very little affected by the actual increase or diminution

of

of expense caused by a large or small crop, but depends almost entirely on the quantity of sugar produced on the estate. The reason of this is, that most of the usual heavy items of expense, such as salaries, stock, invoices, and taxes, alter very little in gross amount, whether an estate makes a large or small crop, whilst the proportion they bear to each hundred weight of sugar varies according to the number of hundred weights produced on the estate. On examining the two statements, E and F, it will appear that sugar was produced on Arygle estate, during apprenticeship, at a much less cost than on Calder, whilst, on the contrary, during freedom the cost of production was much less on Calder than on Argyle. This difference was entirely owing to better crops being produced on Argyle, during apprenticeship, on account of the superior fertility of the soil, and worse crops during freedom, on account of its being more affected by dry weather than Calder; and it was also owing to the extent of cultivation having decreased more in proportion. The gross expenses of the two estates will be found to have increased during freedom more on Calder than on Argyle.

244. In what respect can such reduction be made?—The only certain way of reducing materially the cost of producing sugar, and of course the proportionate expenses of the estate, is to obtain a sufficient supply of labour to keep up the cultivation at an extent proportionate to the size of the estate. The statement, marked H, will show at what cost I consider sugar might be produced on Argyle and Calder, provided a sufficient supply of labour could be procured to make the old average crops of 350 hogsheads and 250 hogsheads, and on comparison with the cost during the last three years of freedom, it will be found that on Argyle the gross cost of 33*s.* 1*d.* per hundred weight may be reduced to 18*s.*, and on Calder, 28*s.* may be reduced to 21*s.* per hundred weight. In this calculation allowance has been made for additional economy in the use of supplies, and also for a saving by reduction of duty on lumber and fish.

245. A reduction from what causes?—An expected reduction in duty.

246. What is the extent of the population of St. Vincent's?—I believe about 25,000, but I am not quite certain.

247. Mr. *Hawes.*] You reckon on superior management reducing the expenses a good deal, do you not?—Superior management will increase quantity, and increased quantity will reduce expenses; but I do not think that will reduce actual expenses to an extent which will bear on each hundred weight of sugar.

248. Has any alteration taken place in the residence or non-residence of proprietors?—We have rather more resident proprietors since freedom; many came, not being able to live at home.

249. Viscount *Howick.*] What proportion of the estates are managed by resident proprietors?—I think about one-third of the estates have resident proprietors on them.

250. Are any of the estates managed by persons who take them on lease from the proprietors?—Only one estate is leased now.

251. Is that system likely to extend?—I think the system must extend generally over the West Indies; I think a manager can often do more by leasing an estate than he can do merely managing for another.

252. Mr. *Barclay.*] With reference to the reduction of the crop, which was 13,000 in the time of apprenticeship, and 8,000 in the time of freedom, you stated that that was owing to the dry weather, and to the diminution of labour; can you state what proportion belongs to the dry weather, and what to the deficiency of labour?—No, that would be a very uncertain guess. I can only state that by looking to the particulars of one estate, and seeing how that was affected, and I think by looking at the return to which I have referred, a guess may be made how far that cause affected it.

253. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you give the number of hogsheads on one estate in 1835, 1836, and 1837, on Calder estate, for instance; and the number in 1838, 1839, and 1840, on that same estate?—Not without reference to accounts which are in the island.

254. Viscount *Howick.*] You have stated generally, that the cause to which you attribute that most importantly is the diminution of continuous systematic labour?—Most certainly.

255. You stated that you found it impolitic to attempt to levy fines on the negroes for non-attendance; did you find it better to be content with merely deducting their wages for the time they were absent?—Yes.

256. You have stated that it frequently happens that their labour on their own provision-

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provision-grounds, for that time, is worth more to them than the wages they lose by their absence?—Yes.

257. Does not that in part arise from the system which you state to prevail, of paying only a portion of their wages in money, and the rest in kind, in the rent of a house and provision-grounds?—Without a doubt.

258. Would it not have a great tendency to ensure a more regular attendance if the negro were subject to a rent for his house and grounds, and, on the other hand, received a higher rate of money-wages, which he would lose by absence from his work?—That rent could never be equivalent to the profit he would obtain from his provision-grounds.

259. It would bear a larger proportion to his gains, and be a larger deduction from the expenses of the owner when he was absent?—Then we might have the labour of the estate stopped, and no power of getting additional labourers, because there are no houses to put them into.

260. Might not that be met in a manner similar to that in this country, by a contract that the labourer, while occupying particular houses and land, should labour only for his master?—Then that comes to our system; they hold the house and land on condition of their working for their master.

261. Might it not be arranged that the labourer occupies his house and land subject to rent, and the contract that he shall not work for another?—Then I should fear continued disputes between master and labourer about the payment of the rent. Suppose he did not give the number of days' labour and fresh labourers were wanted, where are they to be put? That is the difficulty.

262. The question supposes the labourer to pay full rent for the land and the house, and that he is not at liberty to occupy that house and land, though paying the rent, working for another master?—Still he would labour for himself on the sly.

263. Would he not have a less inducement to do that at the cost of a large portion of his wages, if he had to pay a considerable rent and received twice as much wages, while he would have only half the inducement to absent himself?—Still the inducement would be sufficient for him to absent himself; and we should be in no situation to have the house to put strangers into.

264. Have you the same difficulty now that you have no house?—At present if a labourer does not work for us, we say, "Walk away; your house is given to some one else in your room." So long as we have the hope of getting him to work we do not interfere, but if we are compelled to obtain a fresh labourer we must have a house ready for him.

265. What difficulty would there be in obliging one of those who has ceased to work for the master to give up the house he occupies?—Then we come to tenancy; and we find that if we let a man pay rent, we make that man a tenant, and must give him six months' notice.

266. Then does not that arise from the deficiency of the law; ought not the master to have the means of obliging them to quit unless they give their labour?—The law of England, not the island law, has laid it down that no tenant can be compelled to quit until he reaps his crop, or without six months' notice. I state that as the law as it has been stated to us.

267. Is there not a power in the island legislature of making such regulations?—I doubt whether the Government here would admit of an alteration in that respect.

268. You conceive that if there were some enactment in force by which the negroes should be subject to a rent, but at the same time not be able to hold a house and land, and prevent your having an efficient labourer, that would be more likely to secure you efficient labour than the existing one?—I have stated that still the benefit to the negro of labour in his provision-grounds would be greater than that; that would be an extra inducement, but still the negro's labour in his provision-grounds would be too great for him to overcome.

269. That would depend upon the amount of labour, and the amount of wages?—Yes; and they must be made proportionable, the one to the other.

270. If that being part of the contract, he was made to pay rent for the land at a sum in proportion, of course he would have a much stronger inducement than he now has to afford his labour regularly?—He might say, "I will occupy your house, I do not want your land;" he might go to another person, and rent land at a lower rate than he might get it from his master; and that some of them have done.

271. Can you form any idea what the expenses of a negro and his family are, as compared with their earnings?—I believe they save the greater proportion of their earnings, otherwise they could not have large sums of ready money whenever they have objects in view.

272. They obtain money from the sales of provision on their ground?—I have no doubt every industrious family obtains a hundred dollars in a year, beside keeping his family; that is, besides his pay.

273. What becomes of his pay?—He uses that and saves the hundred dollars, or nearly that amount.

273*. Mr. *Howard.*] Will not the proposed alterations in the duties make provisions much cheaper?—They will make fish cheaper; ground provisions may be cheaper to a certain extent, if corn becomes cheaper; but that will be something like the reduction in a hundred weight of sugar, it will not tell on the hundred weight.

274. Mr. *Stuart.*] If this system is persevered in, of giving each negro a certain portion of land, will not it tend to reduce the price of food, as every man will raise a certain portion?—Yes; but the labourers are continually looking out for land, where they can settle upon their provision-grounds instead of settling on an estate, and leaving the estate to go to the mountains; and they are constantly looking out for land where they can go and live, and allow their wives to sit down, as we call it, and take charge of the children.

275. *Chairman.*] Do you find much extent of settling on uncultivated land?—No, I think not; I think there is generally more predilection for land they can hire.

276. Viscount *Howick.*] Can you tell what is the money expenditure of a uegro for his family in a year, out of the money he obtains by his wages and the profits of his provision-ground?—It differs according to the character of the negro; I have known a negro lay out 50 dollars in the giving a party.

277. Do they spend habitually any considerable sum on British imported articles of different kinds?—The tradesmen in the towns complained, that in the year 1840 they did not spend nearly so much as they did in 1839.

278. What articles do they chiefly purchase?—They purchase fine coats, and the common labourer in the field would wear as good a coat on the Sunday as any of us. Any new fashion which comes out he would pay a little for, and the opportunity of treating the ladies, as they are called; they all appear remarkably well-dressed on Sundays, and they do not scruple to pay for it.

279. What proportion of taxation generally falls upon the negro in import duties?—We have never had an import tax till now.

280. Is he subject to any direct taxation?—None; we tried to get a dollar a head, and it was rejected by the Government at home.

281. Are the small freeholders who have purchased property subject to any taxes?—Yes, upon a house; householders who purchase property are subjected to the payment of a dollar, I think.

282. Are they subject to any parochial rates, or burdens of that kind?—No.

283. How are the expenses for the maintenance of the poor, the roads, and general expenses of that kind, defrayed?—The roads are paid out of the gross taxation; the poor are supported by voluntary contribution and by the estates; the estates voluntarily support their own poor.

284. There is no tax imposed on those small freeholders to meet those expenses?—A notice is left, obliging them to assist in keeping the roads in repair, either by labouring themselves, or by paying certain rates.

285. The main items of receipt are the taxes you mention on income and on produce?—On income, on produce, and duties levied under the British Act of Parliament on American supplies. Now we are about to have an import duty to a certain extent on British manufactures.

286. Mr. *Tennent.*] Are you to be understood, in making your estimate of an annual profit of 100 dollars, to contemplate any portion of the wages being expended in labour or manure?—They never manure provision-grounds; they go on in a regular system of allowing a certain proportion to rest; the land is virgin soil; generally speaking, they will cultivate half an acre, and allow the other half to rest.

287. Then the Committee are to understand that that is the whole profit made by the labourer?—Yes, after feeding his family; I do not say after clothing.

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288. Mr. *Hawes.*] He gets it by the provision he raises on his own ground?—Yes, provided he is industrious.

289. Where does he sell his produce?—He carries it to Kingston, and goes to the general market held on the Saturday.

290. Is it bought by persons of his own class?—Not entirely; the merchants in the island, their servants, and the storekeepers and their servants; he goes to a town which contains several thousand inhabitants: perhaps some shopkeeper will buy it up, and ship it off to Barbadoes.

291. Is there much of the produce of that kind shipped to Barbadoes and the other islands?—I know there is some shipped, but I do not know to what extent.

292. Is there any export duty upon it?—None.

293. Is there not in other islands?—I cannot say.

294. Mr. *Barclay.*] Is the amount of provisions raised on the increase?—Most decidedly.

295. Have the profits been diminished?—I have no doubt they will diminish.

296. Then the situation of the labourer will not be so good?—I think that, like other things, it will find its own level, to a certain extent; if the labourer employs his 300 days in cultivating provisions, instead of a hundred, it will be over done.

297. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you give the public expenditure and revenue of the island?—I can only give them from memory; I should not like to give evidence of which I could not be certain.

298. You have stated that there is a diminished supply of labour, the number of the labourers in the island remains the same?—Yes, the number of people, I suppose does.

299. Can you state what proportion of the men have retired from field labour, and how many of the women and children, as compared with the time of slavery?—It would be only a guess on my part, I should think a proportion of about two-thirds of the women.

300. Who in the time of slavery worked in the field?—Yes.

301. The children?—There are very few instances, I do not know myself of one, but I think there are very few instances of children who were emancipated in August 1834, being engaged in field labour; they seem to consider them a superior class, they term them free children.

302. One great explanation of the deficiency of supply of labour arises from the women and children no longer working in the field?—I think so.

303. Those women and children who have withdrawn from field labour, have been in some way occupied of course, what is the nature of their occupation?—I think a great many of them providing comforts for their husbands, making their homes comfortable.

304. They are employed in household duties?—Yes, in a domestic capacity.

305. As to the children?—A few children I consider they would apprentice to trades where they can, or get them into house service, but rather than see them employed in field labour I believe they would see them go idle, and have nothing to do.

306. The number of hours employed in field labour is lessened, as compared with that in the time of slavery?—Yes.

307. Is the amount of work done lessened in the same proportion as the hours of labour have been actually diminished?—Yes, the result is actually diminished, but I should not say it was diminished in the same proportion.

308. If the number of hours was ten, and is now seven, the result is not in the proportion of seven to ten?—I do not think it is exactly.

309. Can you at all state about what proportion?—No; I think the difference would hardly bear a proportion; I think they do more in proportion in seven than they formerly did in ten, unless in cases where a gang is indisposed.

310. *Chairman.*] Why do you think they do more at present?—I think that there is a feeling that they are not doing justice to the estate in working only seven hours, and that they do a little more in the time.

311. Mr. *Hawes.*] With regard to the profitable employment of the negro's time on his own provision ground, does that apply generally throughout the islands, to other islands as well as St. Vincent's?—No, I have been in islands where it does not apply; it does not apply in Barbadoes.

312. It applies throughout St. Vincent's?—Yes; there may be particular exceptions where mountain ground is attached to an estate as very valuable, and where, being close to the mountain ground, they may work more regularly on the estate, on account of the greater facility with which they can work on the mountain ground.

313. You stated that the contract between the employers and the employed was generally a monthly contract?—Yes.

314. Are there any objections on the part of the negroes to a monthly contract?—I think not.

315. Have many complaints been made by them to the special justices, arising out of the contracts?—I think, very seldom.

316. They have no objection to a monthly contract?—No.

317. Has no inconvenience arisen from the continuous nature of the contract, unless notice is given by one party?—Not since it was understood; it was misunderstood at first, but at the present moment it works well in that respect.

318. Viscount *Howick.*] In what manner is the sugar produced on the estate brought to the market?—Generally speaking, by small vessels called drogers, which go into small bays opposite to the estates and bring the sugar down; they go opposite to the principal estate.

319. Most of the estates have access to those small bays?—Yes; many other estates prefer carting at once to the principal place where the ship lies.

320. Are the roads good?—They are, generally speaking, bad; but they are better than they were. The loss of cattle and mules is sometimes great, on account of the badness of the roads and the hilly nature of the country; for instance, from the estates of Calder and Argyle we send seven miles from each estate.

321. And that along a road maintained by the colony?—Yes, but a very hilly road.

322. That has been somewhat improved lately, but is still a bad road?—Yes.

323. Is that road capable of much improvement?—Yes; there are excellent materials, and it might be made a very good road, but at a great expense.

324. If that road were made good, there would be a great diminution of cost in bringing your produce to market?—It would tend to the saving of a loss in cattle; but I do not think it would make a great difference on the cost of the estate. What would 40 *l.* be on 400 hogsheads of sugar? We have a bay opposite to the estate, or we can cart to the town; but I do not think that would tell to any extent worth considering.

325. Mr. *Stuart.*] Is there any tax for the roads?—They are repaired out of the general funds of the island.

326. Mr. *Barclay.*] Is the black population increasing?—I think it is, but no census has been taken.

327. Marriage is common?—Marriage is more common.

328. Mr. *Stuart.*] Is there any complaint in the colony as to the laws for making mountain roads?—There are great complaints; the Road Act has been varied every year; but the complaint is not of the law being badly made, but its being badly carried out.

329. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is there anything like a code of laws published in the island?—We have the laws of the island published in three or four volumes.

330. Mr. *Stuart.*] With whom does the fault lie that the law is badly carried out?—In a small community there must be a little of what is called partiality or favouritism; a man does not like to carry out the law strictly against a man with whom he is in communication; but roads cannot be made without a certain expense, and it would be a very heavy tax on a colony like St. Vincent's to raise, under present circumstances, enough to put the roads into thorough good order; therefore they go on mending every year, without remaking.

331. Might not a sum of money be raised by some means, sufficient to make the roads good?—Yes; but we have to consider not only what we can pass, but what will be approved at home.

332. *Chairman.*] What do you consider to be the principal cause of the present distress?—The diminution of agricultural labour.

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333. Is the supply of labour afforded by such of the present labourers as were formerly slaves, adequate to the cultivation of the colony?—By no means.

334. Is the actual number of labourers who can be hired equal to the number of those who were employed as slaves in the cultivation of an estate during slavery?—Not more than two-thirds in number, and those gradually decreasing.

335. How do you account for this difference?—Since the labourers became free, many of them prefer gaining their livelihood in other ways than by the cultivation of sugar, such as hiring land for the cultivation of provisions, travelling about the country as hucksters or sellers of goods, and working in towns and villages as jobbers or day labourers; also many women who used to work, refuse to labour now on the plea of being married.

336. Can you state the particular evils which the planter suffers in consequence of an inadequate supply of labour?—A decrease in the extent of cultivation, causing a diminution in the quantity of produce raised; less care in the mode of cultivation, causing a decrease in the average return per acre; necessity of planting at unfavourable periods of the year, in order to increase as much as possible the present small quantity of plant canes, on the extent of which a crop principally depends; inability to manufacture sugar from the canes at the best yielding season, which causes a loss in quantity and quality; inability to carry on agriculture and manufacture at the same time, so that it is very difficult to keep up a regularity of system; loss in the quality of the juice of the cane, from the necessity of cutting it some days previous to commencing to make sugar, or otherwise there would not be a sufficient supply for the week's work; also several other minor evils, which need not be enumerated.

337. What is the adequate remedy you would suggest for the deficiency in the labouring population?—The introduction of additional labour.

338. What is the description of immigrants adapted to the cultivation?—On many estates white labour might be employed if it were not so expensive; and as the greater part of the island is very healthy, many of the present starving population of England might be sent out, with great benefit to themselves and families.

339. Have you formed any opinion as to the extent to which immigration ought to take place, so as to produce a sensible impression on the rate of wages, and to secure continuous labour on the part of the present labouring population?—About 3,000 additional labourers would be required by the island of St. Vincent.

340. Mr. *Hawes*.] When you speak of a sensible impression on the rate of wages, do you mean that you would import sufficient labour to reduce the present rate of wages?—No, I did not understand the wages to be mentioned. About 3,000 additional labourers would be required by the island of St. Vincent in order to raise it to a state of prosperity equal to what existed during slavery, so far as quantity of produce is concerned; there is no object of diminishing wages.

341. Would not the importation of a large number of additional labourers have that effect?—No, I think decidedly not.

342. In what respect would the proprietor be a gainer by the additional quantity of labour, the cost of that labour being the same?—That he would get as much as he required.

343. You mean to say, there is ample capital to employ not only the present labour, but the additional quantity necessary?—Decidedly.

344. There is no want of capital in St. Vincent's?—There is no want of employment.

345. Is there any want of capital to pay wages?—There would be none.

346. That has never been a matter of complaint in the island of St. Vincent?—No; the negroes have been paid; I never had myself an individual instance, if it is so.

347. Are you a landowner yourself?—No.

348. Might not an estate managed by the landowner himself be more economically conducted than by the system of appointing a manager or deputy?—In the first place he would save the deputy's salary; I believe a person leasing an estate would make more himself than for the proprietor under attorneyship; there

there are many things he might turn into money which are at present lost. But proprietors who have come out have generally failed; they have, generally speaking, employed parties when they have come out, from the impossibility of managing the estate themselves.

349. *Chairman.*] What would be the effect on the colony of St. Vincent if any number of estates were thrown out of cultivation?—Sugar being the staple production of the island, its prosperity must be considered to depend on the quantity of that commodity produced. The merchant's profits depends on the consumption of articles sold by him to estates, and such consumption will be lessened in proportion to the number of estates thrown out of cultivation. The storekeeper's profit depends on the consumption of his goods by the population, and that consumption will be lessened in proportion to the inability of estates to pay wages to the labourers; the welfare of the agricultural population depends on the wages they receive and the prices they obtain for provisions; but if estates are thrown out of cultivation no wages will be paid, and if merchants and storekeepers are ruined, the principal demand for provisions is also destroyed. If matters should ever be permitted to retrograde in such a manner, I fear it would be found a very difficult undertaking to restore them to a state of prosperity.

350. Mr. *Hawes.*] Are there many complaints among the proprietors of St. Vincent's of the high rate of wages now demanded by the negroes?—Not as to the 8*d.*: but I have stated that negroes often receive 1 *s.*

351. Is that a matter of complaint on the part of the proprietors; do they assign any part of the difficulties which they sustain to that increased rate of wages?—No, there is no complaint.

352. St. Vincent stands in a peculiar situation?—In St. Vincent the wages have never been raised as in other islands. In Grenada I believe the wages are generally at 1*s.*, but it is supposed that the rate of wages, owing to the continued diminution of labour, will gradually rise until the proprietors cry out against it.

353. Until the present period, that source of difficulty has not been made a subject of complaint?—No.

354. All you want is the necessary labour, having the capital to employ it?—Yes.

355. You have stated that white immigration would be too expensive on the whole, though in particular cases it appears to have answered?—I was so convinced when I came home in August last of the deficiency of labour, and of the necessity for finding out a remedy, that I sent out six white labourers from England; I cannot speak as to the result; they arrived in December last; the reports I have had are that they were doing double the work of the negroes, but they were very much afraid that they might take to drinking rum.

356. *Chairman.*] Were they Englishmen?—Yes.

357. Mr. *Tennent.*] What wages do you pay?—£20. and find them.

358. What proportion does that bear to the wages of the negroes?—Double, and they do double work.

359. Mr. *Hawes.*] This is the second importation of white labour you have had?—Yes, but the first was in connexion with horses, carts, and ploughs; this is not.

360. Is the condition of the negro population improved since their complete emancipation?—I consider that it is, as far as regards themselves, very much.

361. Is their general conduct orderly and well-behaved?—Very orderly and well-behaved.

362. What is the state of crime in St. Vincent's?—I should think it has rather increased; I do not think the actual amount of crime has increased, but that it is more taken notice of.

363. There is more detection, more police?—Perhaps more; the crimes which were before punished on the estate, are now brought forward to public view.

364. What kind of crime is on the increase?—I cannot speak from documents; I think stealing among the negroes from each other is much on the increase; formerly it was taking from their masters, but they have complained that stealing among themselves has increased of late.

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365. Is it money or clothes they have stolen?—All.

366. Are thieves known as a body; a class?—Yes, generally they are; they are what we used to call bad subjects on an estate; now it is known in the country when they are detected in a crime; the crime is brought forward to public view.

367. What is the state of education in St. Vincent's; is it increasing?—It is.

368. Are the proprietors interesting themselves in it?—They are assisting in it wherever they are applied to.

369. By money or personal superintendence?—Not by personal superintendence.

370. Have you schools on your estates?—I had a school in 1832, and in 1834 I got a regular teacher from England, but after the people became free almost all the children left it; they said it was a slavery school. A school instituted during the time of slavery was not so fashionable as one of the new schools in the town, and a great many were sent to town.

371. They did not cease to seek instruction, but they merely changed the school?—Yes.

372. What was the salary of the schoolmaster or mistress?—A schoolmaster at 100 *l.* sterling, and we gave him a house.

373. *Chairman.*] For what extent of district was that school?—There are seven estates around from which the children attended. The schoolmaster was paid by the two estates, but I did not exclude the children from other estates if they came; the man had 200 scholars in the evening and 80 young children.

374. All the children of these two estates had a right of admission, and the others came by sufferance?—Yes.

375. Mr. *Hawes.*] What provision was there for spiritual instruction on those estates?—This school-room was used on a Sunday; the schoolmaster or one of the missionaries preached in it.

376. Was there any clergyman of the Established Church?—We were at the extremity of the parish; the parish is, I think, 13 miles; we were 12 miles from where the clergyman lived.

377. Did he ever visit?—I do not think he was able to visit above twice or thrice.

378. In what period?—Up to the time of emancipation.

379. Between 1834 and the period of complete emancipation?—Yes; he was not called upon to visit; it was a school more in connexion with the missionaries.

380. Do you mean to say you have been visited only twice during a period of seven or eight years?—In a spiritual manner, we were not visited at all; it was too far from his district to visit at all; he considered, I suppose, that it was enough attended to by the missionaries, and he confined his labours to the part more immediately around him; he lived in a town where there were several thousand.

381. In what parish?—St. George's; there was a larger population also in a village near the town; he had quite enough to attend to.

382. With regard to immigration, are you looking to a white immigration or coloured, as a remedy for the deficiency of labour?—I think that the white is too expensive.

383. To what quarter are you looking for a supply of labour?—I think to Sierra Leone.

384. Are any arrangements made with your island for that purpose?—Eighteen months ago we voted a sum of money to introduce immigrants; 3,500 *l.*, and afterwards reduced it to 1,500 *l.*, merely to make a trial; and owing to some improper conduct on the part of the person who had the care of remitting it from the colony there has been a great delay, but a ship has now been sent to Sierra Leone with the hope of getting a few.

385. What number?—I think 120.

386. How will they be distributed; according to the subscription of the parties?—No, it is public money.

387. The Governor will have the distribution of them?—Yes.

 388. Is

388. Is it contemplated to purchase any on the coast of Africa?—No; this money was through the Emigration Society; so much a head to be paid to the emigrants from Sierra Leone to be landed in St. Vincent's.

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389. *Chairman.*] So much a head; in what way?—To be paid for their passage, according to whether they were above a certain age.

390. How would they be dealt with on their arrival in St. Vincent's?—That depends very much on the Governor and his Council.

Jovis, 28° die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. J. S. Pakington.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Hawes.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Mr. Charles Howard.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Hay M'Dowall Grant, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

391. *Chairman.*] DO you desire to give in a statement in addition to the evidence which you gave to the Committee on Monday last?—I do.

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[*The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:*]

(K.)

RETURN of the Quantity of SUGAR Produced, the Number of LABOURERS attached to Sugar Estates, and the EXPORTS and the IMPORTS of the Island of *St. Vincent*, during SLAVERY, APPRENTICESHIP, and FREEDOM.

	Number of People on 1st January.	SUGAR.		IMPORTS FROM			EXPORTS TO		
				Great Britain.	Other Countries.	TOTAL.	Great Britain.	Other Countries.	TOTAL.
		Hhds.	*Lbs.*	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Three Years of Slavery, immediately preceding the Hurricane of 1831:									
1828 -	19,982	19,960	31,740,726	87,137	90,998	178,135	436,540	151,970	588,510
1829 -	19,863	17,507	28,015,112	84,513	100,790	185,303	433,964	47,615	481,579
1830 -	19,603	17,040	28,805,271	57,135	91,163	148,298	263,347	74,698	338,045
Average -	19,816	18,169	29,520,369	76,262	94,316	170,578	377,950	91,428	469,378
Three last Years of Slavery:									
1832 -	19,128	13,500	21,347,828	101,283	118,641	219,924	212,036	73,418	285,454
1833 -	18,973	13,800	23,509,935	62,069	103,870	165,939	267,732	33,779	301,511
*1834 -	18,794	14,780	25,320,408	70,953	85,480	156,433	386,673	37,677	424,350
Average -	18,965	14,028	23,392,724	78,101	102,664	180,765	288,813	48,292	337,105
Three last Years of Apprenticeship:									
1835 -	16,343	13,420	22,829,153	73,356	80,584	153,940	307,413	27,689	335,102
1836 -	15,826	12,684	21,581,196	77,723	73,584	151,307	331,843	38,206	370,049
1837 -	14,916	13,300	23,017,649	121,250	100,358	221,608	368,513	33,912	402,425
Average -	15,695	13,134	22,475,999	90,776	84,842	175,618	335,923	33,269	369,192
	Supposed								
1839 -	†9,000	10,650	17,863,022	—					
1840 -	8,625	5,940	10,324,063	—					
1841 -	8,586	8,278	14,008,730	—					
Average -	8,737	8,290	14,065,271						

* The above number of 18,794 people, consisted of 14,797 prædials attached to estates, about 700 non-prædials, about 1,000 incapable of work, and about 2,300 children under six years of age.

† I have no documents enabling me to ascertain the exact number of labourers in 1839, nor the imports and Exports during freedom.

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Agreeably to the request of the Committee, I have made out a comparative return, marked (K.), of the sugar produced, and the amount of manual labour applied to agriculture in the island of St. Vincent, during the periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, so far as I have documents to guide me; and I would beg leave to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact, that the results appearing on the face of this return, strongly support the evidence given by me on Monday last, proving that the average amount of labour nominally engaged in agriculture has decreased during three years of entire emancipation to an extent greater than one-third of what existed during the last year of apprenticeship, and that the average crops produced during those periods have also decreased in the same ratio; whilst on comparing the average quantity of sugar raised during freedom, with the average of the three years of slavery immediately preceding the destructive hurricane of 1831, the decrease will be found to be considerably more than one-half. Having been also directed by the Committee to form a judgment, as nearly as I can, of how much of the decrease of crops during freedom is to be imputed to dry weather, and how much to loss of labour, I beg to state that I think the crop of 1840 would have amounted to about 8,000 hogsheads sugar had the season been equally favourable as in 1839, when the weather was very good; and this would have raised the average of the three years of freedom to about 9,000 hogsheads. The remainder of the decrease in the quantity of produce raised I impute entirely to actual deficiency of manual labour, without the command of which, cane cultivation cannot be carried on; and this deficiency is owing to several causes,—to the labourers preferring to cultivate provisions rather than sugar canes, to many of them having purchased or leased small lots of mountain land, about an acre in extent, on which they have settled; to fully two-thirds of the women having entirely given up working in the field; to none, or at least very few of the children made free in August 1834, having engaged in agriculture; and to the hours of daily labour having now diminished from nine (the number santioned by law during apprenticeship) to only seven. The said deficiency of labour has been gradually increasing each year of freedom, and unless a remedy is applied by the introduction of additional labourers suited to work in a tropical climate, I fear the prosperity of the colony will soon entirely disappear. The introduction of such additional labourers will in no way interfere with or abridge the comforts and advantages enjoyed by the present labourers; they will in fact be only substitutes of those who have voluntarily withdrawn their labour from cane cultivation. If the number of immigrants required by St. Vincent, say 3,000, should be introduced from Africa, what reasonable person can doubt the immense benefit they would derive from such a change in their state, admitted into a country where cultivation is rapidly progressing, where all the advantages of religious instruction are gratuitously afforded, and where not only the necessaries but even the comforts of life are obtained by small exertion, they must be forcibly impressed with a feeling of how superior the advantages are which thousands of their fellows possess who now inhabit the colony, and will speedily desire to participate in the happiness of their condition.

On examination of documents, I find that the island of St. Vincent is said to contain - - - - - - - - - - - - 84,000 acres.

The small islands connected with it, and called its dependencies, are said to contain about - - - - - - - 8,700 „

Total Extent - - - 92,700 „

Amount of land said to be occupied by estates - 35,000 acres.

Remainder, uncultivated mountain land and mountain provision grounds - - - - - - - 57,700 „

92,700 acres.

Hay M'Dowall Grant.

392. Mr. *Hawes.*] In your last examination you specified certain laws as regulating the relations between master and servant. Did you refer to those passed by the island legislature in view of or subsequently to the abolition of the apprenticeship system; such as the Abrogation Act, passed the 12th of May 1838

1838, and the Act for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, and the Act for preventing the combination of servants, and several others; or did you refer to the Act passed subsequently to the latest of those Acts, namely, the Act regulating the relations of masters and servants, and some other Acts?—I refer to that which we call the Master and Servant's Act, which was the Contract Act, passed in November 1838, under the direction of the Home Government, not to the Abr ogation Act, because that lasted only five or six months.

393. The Master and Servant's Act passed the 13th of May 1838?—Yes; but that did not last the whole year. In part 4th, page 187, of the Parliamentary Papers, the Act to which I refer is contained.

394. Was that an Act passed by the island legislature previously to and in view of or subsequently to the abolition of the apprenticeship system?—Subsequently to the abolition.

395. Can you give the Committee any account of its provisions, as to the extent to which it placed the labourers in the hands of the employers?—If I were asked particular questions as to how far the negroes were affected, I could state, otherwise I would beg to refer to the Act.

396. Was not that the Act which restored the jurisdiction of the stipendiary magistrates, for the purpose of carrying the provisions of that Act into effect?—The stipendiary magistrates always carried the Act into effect.

397. Did it not make new provisions relating to them?—It made certain provisions, but I do not think they were new.

398. Are you acquainted with the contents of this Act?—It is the custom of the island that when any complaint is made by the manager of an estate, the attorney should attend; and I was always in the habit, as much as possible, of attending when complaints were made before the magistrates, therefore I have a practical knowledge of the Act, but it is difficult to remember exactly the provisions, unless I am questioned upon them. The Master and Servant's Act gave the special magistrates alone the power of deciding between master and servants, but I think they had that power also before.

399. Can you state to the Committee whether or not there was any additional power given over the labourers by this Act. As regarded contracts, was it not in point of fact a more stringent Act?—No; I should say that the Act was passed entirely with the view to please the Home Government, and when we passed it we were informed that some colonies had refused to pass it. At the time we passed it, there was certainly no view of making it a more stringent Act.

400. Did it give the labourers power to set aside contracts entered into fraudulently?—I have known contracts set aside where there were no witnesses to prove the contract.

401. Was this Act passed in exactly the state in which it was sent over by the Home Government to the colony?—It was.

402. Are you or not aware whether there were any verbal alterations in it, as compared with the former Acts?—No; I cannot speak to that.

403. Were there any representations made by the island authorities to the Home Government to amend or to alter it?—I should say not, as far as my memory carries me, but I cannot be certain.

404. In one clause, for instance, it is enacted, "That nevertheless any contract of apprenticeship, or service to be performed within this colony shall be liable to be set aside in the manner and by the authority hereinafter mentioned, whatever may have been the date thereof, upon reasonable proof being made, to the satisfaction of such petty session as hereinafter mentioned, that either of the parties to such contract was induced to enter into the same by any such fraud," "misapprehension," which was in the former Act, being omitted, "any such fraud, misrepresentation, or otherwise;" was any objection raised in the island to that word?—Speaking of what I myself positively know, I do not remember any such objection; I have known, as I said before, contracts set aside for want of witnesses, but whether under that Act or not, I do not know.

405. Were the former Acts administered by the local magistracy previously to the passing of this Act?—Under the apprenticeship, never.

406. Not in conjunction with the special magistrates?—No; I think the first administration under entire freedom, was by a court, composed of a stipendiary magistrate as chairman, assisted by the magistrates of the island, and that the Master and Servant's Act, or Contract Act, gave the power to the stipendiary magistrates alone; that is as far as I recollect the working of the system.

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407. From that time the local magistrates have ceased to administer the Act?—They have; but in what we call justice of the peace cases, disputes between labourers and disputes between masters, and cases of thieving and assaults, they act.

408. Do you mean to apply that remark to the Act for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons; is that an Act which the local magistrates administer?—No: I think a provision will be found in that Act to enable the special magistrates to act alone.

409. What is the power given to the local magistrates of the island over the labouring population?—We have what is called the Island Act, which is Sir Robert Peel's Criminal Act, with a few modifications, which gives jurisdiction to the local magistrates to punish petty offences.

410. Can you state the offences of which they have cognizance under that Act?—Thieving, petty larceny, and common assaults; if the assault is aggravated, they have the power of committing for trial.

411. Will you have the goodness to inform the Committee of the mode in which justice is administered in the court of quarter sessions, who is the presiding justice, and also the mode in which it is administered in the higher court; who is the chief justice, and who assists him, and takes part in the administration of justice?—We have two courts: what is called the court of quarter sessions in England is what is called with us the petty sessions. Generally two or three magistrates in the district meet one day in the month, having previously issued summonses, upon any complaints that have been made to them, for parties to appear. Witnesses are called in the usual way; the case is heard and decided.

412. You now speak of the jurisdiction of the local magistrates, which resembles the jurisdiction of the court of quarter sessions in England?—Yes. Then we have what we call our grand sessions, which is what is called here quarter sessions; they now are held four times a year; they used to be held only twice a year. Eighteen months ago an Act was passed to turn them into quarter sessions.

413. Who tries prisoners in that court, and who takes part in the administration of justice in that court?—The chief justice of the island presides, and two members of the council must sit with him.

414. Is he a lawyer by education?—Yes; appointed from home.

415. Are the members of the council who sit with him, lawyers?—No.

416. Do they bear any title or distinction in the island?—They are called "honourable."

417. Is there any qualification for sitting on the bench?—Merely being a member of the council: and the two puisne judges of the Court of Common Pleas are the supreme court of judicature.

418. Are they lawyers?—No, they are unpaid.

419. What is considered a qualification for that office?—The appointment of the governor; it rests with him.

420. Does it require the sanction and approval of the Government at home?—I should think so; the local governor has the power of appointment, and of course he appoints for the time being, but it may be altered at home.

421. The gentlemen so appointed, are the judges of a court, such as you describe the Court of Common Pleas, or the Court of Queen's Bench, and at the same time they are not legally educated?—That is the case.

422. What is their occupation and business in the island?—Sometimes they are merchants, sometimes planters.

423. Carrying on the business of merchants or the business of planters, and at the same time sitting as puisne judges in a court of justice?—Yes; and in Barbadoes they go further, for till lately, the chief justice of that island was not a lawyer.

424. Do points of law come before them?—Yes.

425. Do they construe Acts of Parliament and decide points of law, not being legally educated?—They do; that is one of the evils and anomalies of the system.

426. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] Has any representation of that been made to the Home Government?—The Home Government are perfectly aware of it.

427. Has complaint been made of it?—No.

428. Mr. *Hawes.*] But do not those parties who are appointed judges belong to the principal class in the island?—Yes.

429. Therefore,

429. Therefore, they would not be the parties likely to complain of the privilege which they enjoy?—They do not consider it a privilege, it is an unpaid duty.

430. Is it an onerous duty?—It depends upon the number of causes tried; sometimes it occupies a week of the person's time, and I think the court sits once in every month throughout the year.

431. Is there any patronage attached to the office?—None.

432. Or any privileges?—No.

433. It simply requires a devotion of time to the discharge of a public duty, without any remuneration, direct or indirect?—Yes; I happened to hold the situation myself.

434. But it confers rank in the island?—Yes.

435. And the title you have described of "honourable," is conferred upon the party holding the office?—Yes.

436. Have any practical inconveniences been found to result from the administration of the law by persons not legally educated?—Many.

437. Have they been made matter of representation to the Home Government?—I should think not; the general mode in which justice is administered in the island is now, I believe, the subject of representation from the island, but referring more particularly to the Court of Chancery.

438. By whom is that court presided over?—By the Governor.

439. Is he assisted by lawyers?—No.

440. In criminal cases, have the two members of the council who sit, equal authority with the chief justice?—Yes.

441. That is to say, a case is decided by vote on the bench?—Yes.

442. In criminal cases, arising out of theft or misconduct of any sort upon the estates of parties who may be upon the bench at the time, the party is tried for such offences?—They would generally withdraw in such a case; I have known several instances in which they have withdrawn, and I should think in all they would do so.

443. You distinctly state that it is the practice for parties in such cases to withdraw, and to take no share in the administration of justice on such occasions?—Yes.

444. But, nevertheless, members of the council who may be planters have a perfectly equal authority with the chief justice?—Yes..

445. But none of the parties except the chief justice are lawyers?—No.

446. *Chairman.*] Is the chief justice unable to sit alone?—He is unable, by one of the acts of the island constituting the court.

447, Technically speaking, the court is not constituted without the presence of two members of the council?—Exactly.

448. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] But practically, does the opinion of the chief justice decide in all cases?—Certainly, unless a person found that he could not go contrary to his oath.

449. Mr. *Barclay.*] Is there a scarcity of lawyers in the colony?—There is a scarcity of money.

450. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is the general system for the administration of justice expensive?—No, it is not.

451. Can you state the amount of the criminal and civil establishment for the administration of justice?—I think the chief justice receives only 500 *l.* sterling.

452. What has hitherto been the salary of the chief justice?—The former chief justice received 1,000 *l.*

453 Is there any power, on the part of the colony, to reduce that salary in any way?—I believe an Act is passed in the colony, on the appointment of each chief justice, determining the amount of his salary for the period of his occupation.

454. The island legislature can reduce, if they see fit, the salary of the chief justice appointed by the Home Government?—They can previous to his entering on the office.

455. Subsequently, when he has received the salary, they have no power?—They have no power to diminish it; they may add to it.

456. Is the administration of justice expensive to the suitors in the courts of the island?—Extremely.

457. What becomes of the fees paid to the officers of the court?—All fees

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receivable by the bench go to the chief justice; certain fees are received by the provost marshal, and certain fees by the island secretary, who is secretary of the court.

458. When you say certain fees receivable by the bench, do you mean the bench of criminal jurisdiction?—Criminal or civil, neither the members of council nor the puisne judges receive any fees; they all go the chief justice.

459. Can you state the expense to a prosecutor of trying a case of larceny at your grand session?—I believe the expense in criminal trials is always paid by the island.

460. Has the prosecutor the power of throwing the expense of the trial entirely upon the island?—There is an attorney-general, to whom the prosecutor hands over the evidence.

461. Then the attorney-general is a kind of public prosecutor?—He is; he is paid a salary for being the public prosecutor.

462. The expenses of the trial are paid by him, and no part falls upon the prosecutor?—The expenses are not paid by him, but by the island.

463. They are paid in his office, and charged against the revenue of the island?—I think they are paid by the secretary, but I cannot be quite certain of the detail.

464. And of course the puisne judges are chiefly selected from the principal people of the island, who are planters or merchants?—Yes, or proprietors.

465. With reference to a former question, as to the expense of prosecuting a man at the grand session, can you give the Committee a statement of its amount, and any details connected with it?—No, I cannot.

466. Is it, or is it not, considered an expensive court?—No, I should say not; when I alluded to the expense of obtaining justice, I alluded more to civil cases than to criminal.

467. With reference to the expenses of suitors in civil cases, are they, or are they not, very great?—The expenses are very great, but principally owing to the high fees paid to the bar.

468. Is there any appeal from the decisions of the civil courts of the island?—Where the cause in dispute is above 500 *l.* sterling there is an appeal to the Queen in Council.

469. Which of course is an exceedingly expensive measure?—Very.

470. And rarely resorted to, I presume?—Very rarely, on account of the expense.

471. Practically, then, it may be considered that there is no appeal from those decisions?—It may.

472. *Chairman.*] By what tenure do those puisne judges hold their offices?—At the will and pleasure of the Governor.

473. What security is there for the regular discharge of their duties, as to the sitting of the court, for instance, when necessity requires it?—A person who accepted the office would feel himself bound to attend, but I know of no obligation otherwise.

474. Did you ever find, practically, that delays in the administration of justice arose from want of any regulation of that description?—Very seldom with respect to the judges.

475. Is there much business before the court?—There has been a great deal before the civil court till within the last 18 months.

476. How are their sittings regulated?—They commence to sit in the month of March, and continue to sit till August once a month for one day, or longer, according to the business to be done; the sitting may continue for a week.

477. They continue to sit daily once a month till the business is transacted?—They do.

478. How many judges are there?—There are two puisne judges besides the chief justice.

479. Is it necessary to have the two always sitting?—Two constitute a court, but after the court is constituted one may proceed with the business.

480. Mr. *Hawes.*] The Police Act, passed on the 30th of May 1838, divided St. Vincent into three districts; to which of the three districts did the estates which you managed belong?—St. George's.

481. Was there any more difficulty in getting the people in that district to accept the terms of the planters than in the other two districts?—No.

482. At what period after the 1st of August 1838, did the planters and labourers

labourers in your district come to a satisfactory understanding, and on what terms was it brought about?—After the 1st of August 1838, the negroes remained on the average throughout the island about eight or nine days before they came into any terms for work; there may have been individual exceptions, but that was the average throughout the island.

483. During those eight or nine days, was some negotiation being carried on between the employers and labourers?—Yes.

484. What was the nature of the negotiation; what were the principal points in discussion between the two parties?—I can only speak of myself alone. I made agreements with the labourers on the two estates previously to the 1st of August to commence work on the Monday following the 1st, on certain terms; the agreements were signed by them in the presence of witnesses. When it became known to others in the island that I had made those agreements, a deputation was sent to them from the labourers on other estates, to tell them that they must not fulfil those agreements. When I found this out, after the 1st of August, I went to the estates, and tore the agreements up in their presence, and told them that I did not consider them bound by them. We then negotiated for their working at a certain rate of wages offered; they refused the rate, and said that they considered that they had a right to the houses and grounds without work, being now free. I then had to complain to the police magistrate of the district, in order to have them brought before him, and ejected, as I considered they might be on account of their not working.

485. In the general return of the estates in the Kingston district, which appears to have been made either in November or December 1838, the number of labourers said to have left the Argyle estate is 30 men and 5 women; the number added, four men and one woman, leaving a loss of 30 labourers to this estate; and the number of labourers reported to have left the Calder property is 24 men and 6 women, and the number added, eight men and four women, leaving a loss of 18 to this estate; were all those effective labourers or not?—Generally speaking, I should think they must have been. They were people who had connexion elsewhere, and wished to leave the estates.

486. You were then managing the estates?—I was then attorney of the estates, and present at the time that those people gave in their names to the magistrate as intending to leave.

487. And you state, so far as you are able, that they were effective labourers?—Decidedly not incapable.

488. Can you state, generally, the causes of their leaving those estates at the time of their doing so?—They gave in their names to the magistrate on the spot; the magistrate visited the estates; the people were assembled; he asked them whether any wished to leave the estates, and that number gave in their names.

489. Did they assign any reasons?—No; probably their reasons were, that they had connexions elsewhere.

490. They did not assign any reason that came within your knowledge?—I remember that one man told me that he had a wife at a place about five miles off, and he wished to go and live with her, and cultivate a piece of land which he had; and others assigned similar reasons, that they had wives elsewhere; and those who came to me stated that they had wives and connexions on other estates.

491. Then the loss of labourers alone affected the cultivation of the estate?—Yes, that was the loss that took place in the presence of the magistrate; that was not the whole loss of labour.

492. Can you state what was the cause of the further loss of labour?—Those who remained under a promise of working, performed only a certain portion of work.

493. In the Police Magistrate's Report relative to that district, I find, under the date of the 6th of August 1838, that you brought before him certain labourers for refusing to work for the stipulated wages, or to remove from the Calder estate; did you make a concession to the women that they should work four days in the week, it being stated by the stipendiary magistrate, that "under the Abrogation Act, to entitle them to a residence on the estate, they must continue to perform the work which may be assigned to them." "On this point," says the stipendiary magistrate, "the proprietors may see the necessity

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of making some concession." Did you make that concession?—I made some concession; the women asked for every Friday, and I gave them the Friday of every second week.

494. Did the men employ the Saturday in cultivating their provision grounds, or in taking their produce to market?—In cultivating their provision grounds.

495. Did the women assist them?—On certain days of the week, but generally speaking, the women carry the produce to market.

496. At what distance from the huts were the grounds in the mountains situated?—On Calder estate, between four and five miles.

497. Could those grounds be turned to any valuable account by the proprietors of the estates?—We might have turned them into stock-farms, and raised stock on them.

498. Is such ground at all employed in that way in any case you can mention?—Yes, there are three or four such grounds in the island.

499. Does the occupation by the negro of this ground improve it?—No; deteriorate it very much.

500. Their system of cultivation injures and not improves the land?—Yes.

501. Do they change their location from time to time?—Yes; I have stated that they work half their land for one, two, or three years, and then change it to the other half, leaving that to rest.

502. For how long a time has a negro and his family been located upon his provision ground within your knowledge?—Within my knowledge they have changed their acre once, not only their half but their whole acre of ground; that is, they have moved, leaving the other resting; but I believe it has been done once before.

503. But generally, what is the extent in point of time of their occupancy of that ground?—I think, generally, about four or five years, not more.

504. Every four or five years do they leave the provision ground which you have assigned to them, and do you then assign another portion of the mountain to them?—We do not assign it, but we allow them to take their own way: some estates line out a fresh site for them.

505. The average time of occupation, you say, is four or five years, and not more?—It depends upon the richness of the soil; I speak of the average throughout the island as being four or five years, but I may be wrong. In this individual case I am speaking of, it was seven years.

506. You state that the provision grounds are four or five miles from the estate; is that in addition to the distance from the market?—That depends upon circumstances; in this case the four or five miles made in addition of three miles to the market.

507. How do the negroes transport their produce to the market?—On their heads entirely; a few of the settlers who have large quantities of provisions on account of daily working their grounds, resort to mules.

508. Have you ever attempted to let the mountain land?—No.

509. You cannot state, therefore, what would be the value of an acre of mountain land to let?—No.

510. Can you state the amount of rent paid per annum for a hut capable of accommodating a negro family of five persons?—Since the negroes became free, many of them will not live in the same hut; as soon as a young man becomes fit to take a wife, which is generally at the age of 18 or 19, he demands a house for himself now, and receives it; consequently the number of houses on estates is much increased.

511. What is the cost of erecting a house of that description?—About 30 *l.* sterling.

512. How many rooms are there usually in the house?—Two.

513. What is the size of them?—The general hut, I think, is 24 by 12, with a bed-room taken off, 10 by 12.

514. Can you state to the Committee the annual cost of medicine and medical attendance per head for the labourers on your estates?—For medical attendance one dollar, whether they require attendance or not; for medicine, the average was 6*l.* sterling, on Calder, that would be 1 *s.* a head, making the total 5 *s.* sterling altogether.

515. You state that you give a gratuity of 2 lbs. of salt fish to the negroes; is that invariably given, or do you make it dependant upon the quantity of work they

they perform?—It depends upon the will of the manager, and is meant as an encouragement to industry.

516. It depends then upon the quantity of work being done which is assigned to the negro?—Not so much on the quantity of work as on the continuous attendance during the five days.

517. The continuous attendance during the five days for work to the satisfaction of the superintendent?—Yes.

518. What is the value of that salt fish?—About a week.

519. What amount of sugar and rum do you allow to the labourers a week, and what is the value of it?—I think the amount of sugar and rum consumed in Calder reaches 75 *l.* sterling a year, as far as my memory serves me; that is principally distributed among the field labourers. The stock-keepers and people who have no hard work, seldom get it; it would be divided between 50 and 60 people.

520. Lord *Chelsea.*] You mentioned that you had three classes of labourers; are those advantages of the sugar and rum, and medical attendance, given to each, or is there any distinction made between those that are more highly paid and the others?—There is no distinction; the sugar and rum is given to persons while they are at work. If a wet day comes, they like a little rum; if it is a dry, sultry day, they commonly get sugar and water.

521. Mr. *Hawes.*] During the season of the crop, are the wages of the labourers increased?—To those who work extra time in the manufacture of the sugar, but not otherwise.

522. To what extent are they increased?—An agreement is commonly made with labourers to take off the crop, as it is called, for a certain sum.

523. Does that sum exceed the ordinary rate of wages, or is it done by task-work?—It is done by task-work; it is an agreement for the crop; so much for the job.

524. Does that or not exceed the ordinary rate of wages?—It rather exceeds, I should say.

525. How many hours of continuous labour do you require in the boiling-house?—According to the boiling of coppers, from 12 to 14.

526. Is that the usual time on the estate in the island of St. Vincent?—It is.

527. You have stated to the Committee that the industrious negro can raise a sufficiency of provisions on his mountain ground to feed his family and realise a profit of 100 dollars very well; I presume you mean he can do this with the assistance of his wife and children?—Yes.

528. How many of the labourers on the Calder and Argyle estates have done that, to your knowledge?—I can only judge from what I have heard from the negroes respecting the quantity of provisions raised by them, and the price which they were receiving in the market. I would state that one acre of ground will produce about 2,500 Portuguese yams, that the average price of Portuguese yams is from 6*d.* to 8*d.* each, and besides Portuguese yams, plantains and are grown.

529. Has this estimate any other foundation than the information you have now detailed to the Committee?—It has no other foundation but the prices of provisions and the quantity of work that can be done upon the estate.

530. It is a purely conjectural estimate?—It is a calculation. The husband and wife have each an acre given to them, and they cultivate half of it.

531. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] Half of it they leave?—Yes.

532. Mr. *Hawes.*] During the period of slavery at what rate of payment per day or per week or month did you pay, or if by the job, what did you pay for the various kinds of work performed?—The only labour I hired during slavery was a negro occasionally for job-work, and I paid a quarter dollar.

533. Will you compare that with what you are now paying?—We now pay the same money to strangers, who work for us without asking for house or grounds.

534. During apprenticeship was the payment the same?—During the apprenticeship we bought 30 of the Fridays which the law gave to the negroes, and invariably paid them 8*d.* sterling or 1*s.* 6*d.* currency.

535. At what rate of wages per day were the head men, the first, second, and third classes of field labourers, appraised during the period of apprenticeship?—The appraisements varied according to the number of years remaining of their apprenticeship. I am afraid I cannot speak decidedly to amounts. The appraise-

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ments varied according to the opinions of the persons appointed to decide the amount of the appraisement, with respect to the value of labour.

536. In the same Police Report to which I have before referred, under that date of the 9th of August 1838, you brought before the magistrates some labourers from the Argyle estate "for refusing to enter into any arangement to work for stipulated wages." The entry stands thus: "Mr. Grant offers 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, Menza requires 5*s.*, Juba 3*s.* 9*d.*, Sampson 3*s.* 9*d.*; Menza will not take 1*s.* 6*d.*, Juba will not; Sampson requires time for consideration; Juba consents to work for one month; Menza is ordered to leave the estate on Thursday the 16th, his provisions are to be appraised and paid for before he leaves; Sampson, on returning, says that he will consent to work for one month, and to make his wife and two children do the same." Was it your usual practice to require the labour of the wives and certain of the children residing with their parents on the estate, on pain of being ejected from their huts and provision grounds?—When they became free we required the same parties to continue working as worked during apprenticeship.

537. That is to say that the wife and children should work as well as the husband?—Yes.

538. For how many days did the men on those states labour; how many the women, and how many the children?—The men worked five days; we entered into a compromise with the women and aged to work four and a half, and the children worked five days.

539. What were the ages of the children who were at work?—They were children who had been apprentices; children who were made free on account of being under six years of age on the 1st of August 1836, invariably refused to work; but no ejectment took place on their account.

540. With regard to implied monthly contracts, can you inform the Committee whether those have been considered legal by the authorities of the island, has any decision been come to upon them?—I stated before, that if the contract was made before witnesses, it was legal; if the party entered on a fresh month without stating that he was going to leave, it has, I believe, been decided in the island that this was a renewal of his contract.

541. Do you call the people together at the expiration of every month, to enter into new contracts, or does it simply rest upon complaint of the party as to his discontent, and hence the cessation of the contract; is there any communication between you as manager and the parties?—No. When a party enters into a contract to work he is told that at the end of every month, if he means to go, he must say so; but that if he stops, it will be considered a renewal of the contract.

542. Viscount *Chelsea.*] What notice is required?—No notice.

543. Mr. *Hawes.*] You make the occupancy of the huts and grounds the foundation of the implied contract?—Yes.

544. The contract ceasing if the right to occupy the huts and ground ceases?—I stated before that the contract ceasing on the part of the labourer, the right to occupy the hut and ground ceases also.

545. Were there any schools on those estates before the emancipation?—I established a school in 1832, but I had no schoolmaster then; I taught the people myself.

546. Since then have there been additional schools?—No. In August 1834 I got a schoolmaster, to whom I paid 100 *l.* sterling.

547. Is that school confined to the children of labourers employed on your estates?—No; children from estates around come to that school.

548. Mr. *Barclay.*] You stated that the production of sugar in 1842 was likely to exceed the crop of 1841 by about 800 or 1,000 hogsheads; do you apprehend any difficulty with respect to the sufficiency of labour, in order to take this additional crop off the ground, and manufacture it into sugar?—There will be labour enough, I expect, to take the crop off; but it is questionable whether, whilst taking the crop off, they will be able to establish a similar quantity of land for the following year.

549. And in consequence of the increased quantity of the crop, do you apprehend that you will have to pay a higher rate of wages than you have been in the habit of paying?—A higher rate of what we call crop money, or wages for the job of taking off the crop.

550. Do you consider that the cultivation of the sugar-cane in St. Vincent, under

under the present circumstances, and the current prices of sugar in the English market, is a profitable employment of capital or not?—A very unprofitable one. On the estate which I have given in, Argyle, there was a loss in 1841 of about 4*s.* on every cwt. of sugar, the expense exceeding the receipts. On Calder there was a gain of about 4*s.* on every cwt. of sugar; but that is a very small return for the amount of capital invested.

551. At the present prices of sugar in England, will not that afford sufficient remuneration to the planter, or the proprietor, to induce him to continue the cultivation of his estate?—In St. Vincent the cultivation will be continued as long as the prices are as at present, because the planter may keep out of debt, though he will obtain nothing from his estate; but he decidedly cannot obtain a remuneration for the capital invested.

552. Then if any considerable reduction took place in the price of sugar in England, which is the market for it, do you apprehend that the estate would be abandoned?—I apprehend that proprietors who owe any money would be ruined.

553. Do you think it impossible to introduce any greater economy into the management of estates?—Economy has been introduced to a great extent, in the shape of economising labour; but I do not think that the actual money paid for the expenses of the estate can be reduced to an extent sufficient to affect sugar, so as to make it profitable.

554. Then, in your opinion, if the price of sugar in England should materially decline, many of the estates in St. Vincent would be necessarily abandoned?—The greater number would be ruined.

555. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is that answer limited in the way you limited the former answer, to parties who owe money?—Parties who owe money would be entirely ruined; parties who owe nothing might raise money upon the pledge of their estates to carry them on for a time in the hope of improvement.

556. Mr. *Stuart.*] Can you state what proportion the male labourers who have given up labouring on the estates, and who maintain themselves on provision grounds, bear to the number of labourers who still work on the estates?—In the return which I have given, which is taken from public documents, 8,586 were the number of labourers working on estates in 1841; 14,797 were the number apparently working in 1834.

557. Does the difference between the numbers represent those that are living on the provision grounds independent of labour on the estates?—Yes, living on provision grounds, or carrying about goods for sale; in short, supporting themselves by other means.

558. Is that number progressively increasing?—Decidedly.

559. Is there a great facility in obtaining provision grounds, by which they can be independent of labour on the estates?—That facility is also increasing, on account of the high price the negroes pay for the land.

560. You have stated that it would require an addition of about 3,000 labourers in the island of St. Vincent to restore it to a state of prosperity, as respects the quantity of produce, equal to that which formerly existed; if that large number should immigrate, are you not afraid that those parties would, in a short time, become independent of labour, and that you would be in the same difficulty as you are now?—I think the outlet for their provisions would be over supplied, and that the evil would then check itself.

561. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] What is the feeling of the negro population with regard to the question of importing Africans to the colony?—I have mentioned to several of them that I intended to try and get Africans, but I have never heard any of them make any remark against it. One person, but he was a person in authority, and therefore his evidence may be questionable, told me that it was the only thing to save the estates, because he knew that many of the people intended to get grounds of their own, and leave the estates.

562. Mr. *Charles Howard.*] If the negro should not be able to obtain so good a price for the provision, do you think he will resume his labour and the sugar cultivation?—To a certain extent I think he will, and hope he will.

563. Mr. *Hawes.*] Are the Committee to understand you to say that if 3,000 labourers were imported into St. Vincent, they could be immediately employed?—Certainly.

564. And would be immediately employed?—Yes; but I do not contemplate

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the importation at once; I contemplate it to be gradual, in order that the comforts of those imported may be provided for more easily.

565. At what rate of importation do you think that object would be best secured?—At the rate of about 200 a month.

566. Two thousand four hundred, therefore, in one year?—Yes.

567. And you think that 2,400 fresh labourers could be immediately and profitably employed in the year?—Decidedly.

568. Do you think that there would be any security that if this number of labourers were imported they would not resort to the same means of obtaining their livelihood independently of the estates, which is now resorted to by the labourers in the island?—If they did resort to it, I think the outlet for the supply of provisions would be soon checked.

569. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Would a rise in the rent of provision grounds have any effect in forcing the return of the negroes to the cultivation of the estates, or in inducing those who might immigrate to resort to the cultivation of estates instead of purchasing provision grounds?—The negroes generally prefer purchasing small allotments where they can; I do not know an instance to the contrary; and I did not allude to the rise of rent, I alluded to the price demanded for land sold.

570. Would an increase of the price of land have any such effect as is suggested in the previous question?—Upon immigrants it might; it might prevent them purchasing land, because they are not supposed to have much ready money; but I do not think the increase of price has much effect in deterring negroes from purchasing land, for I believe they have a command of money.

571. But under their system of cultivation, which you say is very defective, the lands occupied by them decrease every year in value?—That is an evil that will tell against us, because if they cannot raise so much from their grounds, the over-supply of provisions in the market will not be so rapid.

572. Mr. *Howard.*] Do you think it will be necessary to make contracts with the negroes before their arrival in the island?—We are prevented, I think, by the law from doing so.

573. Mr. *Hawes.*] Then if I understand you rightly, with regard to this importation of labour, the first effect would be an increased command over labour by the planter; the next probable one would be, that that labour would be diminished by the new labourers resorting to the same practices as the old labourers, and the ultimate effect would be such a reduction in the price of provisions upon the increased supply, that the whole body of labourers would be more dependent upon regular wages in the cultivation of sugar estates; is that your general view?—It is.

574. Then there would be a period, even under the proposed importation of labour, in which you would be involved in the same difficulties as you are now?—By no means to the same extent; a difficulty might arise, but I do not contemplate that it would be to an extent that would affect us.

575. Why not to the same extent, so long as there are provision grounds to be occupied?—Because the provision grounds to be occupied would not be sufficient to supply immediately so large a number as before were supplied; and I think the price of provisions would have fallen so low as to deter them from attempting it.

576. What proportion of the gangs of labourers on estates in St. Vincent during the period of slavery were actually engaged in the cultivation of sugar?—I should say from 17 to 25 was the fair proportion; that would be three-fourths.

577. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] Has the truck system been resorted to since emancipation took place?—Not that I am aware of; I do not think the negroes would submit to the truck system.

578. Mr. *Stuart.*] Supposing an emigrant arrives in the island without any funds, for how many years do you conceive he would have to labour continuously in order to save enough to purchase one acre of ground, according to the present prices?—If he was industrious, I think in about an average of four years he might do it.

579. Then you would secure his labour during those four years?—Certainly.

580. Mr. *Barclay.*] From what you have seen of free labour and slave labour, do you think if you had a sufficiency of free labour, you could raise sugar as cheaply as you could with slave labour?—I consider that the difference would be

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be an average of 3 *s.* per cwt., because, under freedom, the labourer participates in part of the profits in the shape of wages; under slavery, he merely receives sufficient allowances to support him.

581. Are the Committee to understand that the sugar will cost 3 *s.* a cwt. more under freedom than under slavery?—That is my idea, supposing we had an abundance of labour, at the present rate of wages.

582. Is the present rate of wages susceptible of reduction?—I should not suppose that any planter in St. Vincent would wish to reduce the rate, because we have never raised it; in other islands they have raised the rate.

583. Mr. *Hawes.*] Has the population increased in St. Vincent?—I have stated that, in the absence of the census, my idea is, that it has increased.

William Hardin Burnley, Esq. called in; and Examined. TRINIDAD.

W. H. Burnley, Esq.

584. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are well acquainted with the colony of Trinidad?—I am.

585. During how long a time have you resided there, and in what capacity?—Forty years, with occasional absences; as a merchant originally, and latterly as a proprietor of several sugar estates.

586. How long is it since you left the colony?—I left the colony at the end of last July.

587. Do you propose returning; is your absence only temporary?—Only temporary; I return in two or three months.

588. Had you the sole management of those sugar estates of which you are proprietor?—I managed none of them; I merely superintended the financial part of the concerns, considered the conduct of the managers, and the most profitable mode of working them.

589. Did you reside upon those estates?—I resided upon one, but without any direct interference in the practical management.

590. Are you well informed as to the relative position of labourers and employers?—I think I am; I have made it my study for some time past.

591. Is there any law or ordinance in Trinidad which regulates the contracts of hiring between labourers and employers?—There is a law, but practically, it is inoperative, because there are no contracts made between parties.

592. Do the labourers generally object to enter into written agreements?—They invariably object.

593. Have any attempts been made to obviate those objections?—On the part of the proprietors, we are most anxious that they should enter into contracts, because we are satisfied that there can be no steady or profitable cultivation until they are established; but I do not think there has been any attempt made by the Government to induce the labourers to enter into contracts; on the contrary, I think the practice that has been pursued by the colonial authorities has rather deterred the labourers from so doing.

594. Have the stipendiary magistrates interfered in any way upon the subject?—They have not; no exertions have been made to persuade the labourers to enter into contracts.

595. What redress has the employer or labourer in case of non-performance by either, or by any verbal contract or understanding between them?—There is the stipendiary magistrate before whom the parties can proceed, and, I believe, get impartial and immediate justice; but if the Committee will look at the last blue book relative to Antigua, Trinidad, and St. Lucia, which has been laid upon the table, they will see, in the case of Trinidad, that the answers to those questions have invariably been, that no cases are carried before the magistrates either by the labourer or by the employer.

596. Such cases have not arisen?—Disputes have arisen, I know, frequently; but they have not been brought before the magistrates.

597. Is the labourer's remuneration, in Trinidad, regulated by the task, or by any other mode?—The labourer is always engaged by the task when it can be done; but there are many descriptions of labour that cannot be performed by task-work, and particularly in the crop season. I should say almost all the agricultural work out of crop is done by task and job-work, and in the crop the work is by the day, with few exceptions.

598. It is impossible to regulate all the labour on a sugar estate by the task?—Quite impossible.

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599. What is the rate of wages per day to an able-bodied labourer when employed about the buildings, not upon task-work?—The wages, of course have varied from time to time in the colony, particularly with the alterations in the value of sugar, which always will govern the rate of wages in Trinidad. At the commencement of emancipation, in 1838, the wages of a task upon an estate were 15*d.* sterling; it rose subsequently, and was last year, in May, 2*s.* 2*d.* sterling.

600. Mr. *Hawes.*] Will you explain what a task is?—A task is a portion of work—in weeding canes of so many feet square: it took its name in the time of apprenticeship, or rather before, because we had protectors of slaves before apprenticeship was established, and they decided the amount of a day's labour for a slave; that day's labour was called a task, and the habit and the name has continued to the present period. The rate of wages for a task was 2*s.* 2*d.* in May last. Subsequently, the price of sugar fell considerably in the English market, and proprietors of estates in Trinidad found that they could not pay so high a rate. In November last a meeting of the agricultural committee took place, and they determined to reduce wages to 1*s.* 3*d.* a task; but the labourers having more power than the employers, would not accede to those terms; a struggle ensued, and I find by my last accounts, that on the 4th of February, a task was precisely the same as before, 2*s.* 2*d.*, throughout the island generally, and in the district of Tacarigua 2*s.* 6*d.*, as stated by one of the members at the board of council.

601. *Chairman.*] What is the remuneration to an able-bodied labourer per day, when employed about the buildings in such work as does not admit of being divided into tasks?—Generally from 50 to 80 cents; that is, from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* sterling, according to the skill of the parties.

602. How many hours' labour is given in a day for that amount of wages?—They should work from sunrise to sunset, with an intermission of two hours for dinner, and an hour for breakfast; but it is found impossible, except in very rare cases, to get them to their work before seven o'clock in the morning.

603. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Is the task a fair day's labour, as much as a negro can do?—Decidedly not. It arose from the amiability of the protectors, who considered it to be a sufficient day's work for a slave; but we find now, since emancipation, that they can do two tasks very easily, and they sometimes have done three; but it is a rare case.

604. *Chairman.*] Is the task the same as it was in the time of apprenticeship?—In some instances I think it is rather less.

605. How many hours does it occupy the labourer to do the task?—It varies a good deal. I see by the evidence taken by the Trinidad Agricultural Committee, that it is not an uncommon thing for a labourer to return from completing his task (for he rarely does more in the day) at 11, 12, 1, and 2 o'clock, but many return at 11.

606. Is the work done as well now as it was at the period of the apprenticeship?—Yes, I should think quite as well, if you look well to the doing of it, because you need not pay for the task till the work is satisfactorily done; and if you find that it is not done satisfactorily, you can send the labourers back to complete it.

607. Viscount *Howick.*] It depends entirely upon the sufficiency of the overseers?—It depends upon the proper management of the estate.

608. *Chairman.*] How was the extent of the task fixed; by what criterion was it regulated?—It was the following up of the same task which had existed in the previous period of slavery, and through the apprenticeship.

609. Viscount *Howick.*] It was, in fact, the old task that prevailed in slavery continued?—Yes, the old task, which was then considered a sufficient day's labour, and which is now called a task, to distinguish it from a day's labour.

610. How many hours does it occupy an industrious labourer?—From reference to the evidence before mentioned distinctly given upon this point, I should say, not more than four or four and a half hours for an industrious active man.

611. Have you ever known more than two tasks to be performed in one day?—Yes, and the same is stated in the evidence; but it is of rare occurrence.

612. What

612. What sum of money could an effective labourer make in a day by task-work, if he worked steadily for 10 hours in a day?—He could easily earn above one dollar, 4*s.* 4*d.* sterling, at task-work; and it is stated in the Trinidad Evidence (Questions 300, 301) that after feeding but not clothing himself, he could save above 4 *l.* sterling in a month; and that for about 1 *s.* 3 *d.* sterling, he might supply himself with farinaceous food and with the fish he gets from the estate as part of the allowances, support himself comfortably for a week.

613. If a labourer is willing to go on to do more than one task, does he receive the same rate for the second and third task?—Yes, with the same allowance of fish added to it, though he cannot consume it. That was the state of affairs up to the time of my leaving the island; I understand that subsequently they have attempted to reduce the wages, and take away allowances, with the exception of the occupation of a house and ground. The planters expected that they would receive from Sierra Leone a large number of labourers, and would be able to enforce the new tariff they had framed. No labourers however have come since from Sierra Leone, and, as far as I can learn from the imperfect correspondence, resulting from the late irregularity of the mails, the labourers have succeeded in sustaining the old rate of wages. I do not find that they have succeeded in procuring the allowances of fish and rum that they had formerly, but am very apprehensive that they will ultimately succeed in so doing. At the same time I must explain that the allowances of rum and fish were never completely done away with in the distant districts; their distance from a market being a rational motive for continuing it.

614. When were those allowances discontinued?—They were discontinued by the resolution of the agricultural committee in November last.

615. Are they discontinued entirely, or is it the practice to give them to the labourers after a certain number of tasks have been performed?—They were never discontinued entirely, because no unanimity can be found in a colony like Trinidad.

616. Is it the practice to make those allowances in particular cases: suppose a labourer in the week had done five days' work, would that entitle him to certain allowances?—I think some individuals may have adopted that plan; I believe they may give something extra as a bonus where a man works continuously five days in the week, but it is not of practical consequence, the circumstance being so rare.

617. Has there been any attempt to reduce the money wages?—There was an attempt made in November last, which they have been struggling to effect ever since.

618. Are there any advantages enjoyed by the labourers beyond their wages?—They had an allowance of rum for each task, with half a pound of fish; they have now a house allotted them, free of all rent, and as much provision ground as they choose to cultivate. Medicine generally is supplied to them, and in some cases medical attendance.

619. Has there been any attempt made in Trinidad to charge rent for the houses occupied by the negroes?—None at all; it was seen from the commencement to be entirely hopeless.

620. Even if combined with a higher rate of money wages?—I may say that it was hardly possible for the planters to go higher with respect to money wages than they have done. In the end it would have come to the same thing, as the increased wages would have been deducted in the shape of rent; but I do not think it was ever attempted.

621. Would it, in fact, have come to the same thing; would it not have given the negroes strong additional inducement to continuous labour?—There were certainly many things which would have answered beneficially to the proprietors if they had possessed the power to effect them, but which were impossible, on account of the demand for labour being so much greater than the supply; the supply was always very short prior even to emancipation in consequence of the law which prevented slaves from being carried from one colony to another.

622. *Chairman.*] Do you think it would be expedient, if it could be done, to establish the system of paying rent?—Decidedly; it would be the most advantageous thing that could be adopted, if it could be effected.

623. What notice is required before the labourer can be ejected from his house and ground?—Practically it never occurs, they are allowed to remain

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as long as they please. If a labourer is idle for some time, the manager will use all his influence to get him to work, but lets him remain in the hope that one day or another he may do so, until some stranger presents himself and offers to work upon the estate; then the manager directs that previous occupant to quit the house, and I have never heard that in any instance it has created any dispute; one labourer has walked out, and the other has walked in.

624. Viscount *Howick.*] Have you ever known cases of negroes occupying houses and grounds on one estate, and labouring on another?—I have no direct evidence of it, but as we pay labourers who do not reside upon the estate something higher than those who do, I should not be surprised if it should occur. I think the present system of occupying the houses rent free, is the worst system that can be, and if the employers possessed the power, they have decidedly the inclination to alter it.

625. The impossibility of their altering it arises from there being so much more demand for labour than there is supply?—Yes; I may say, without hesitation, that the labourers in Trinidad do precisely as they please; that is the state of the labour-market there.

626. *Chairman.*] Is it the practice to eject a labourer from the house as soon as he ceases to work on the estate?—If a manager found another disposed to take his house and work upon the estate, he would eject the previous occupant, otherwise he is disposed to let him remain, in the hope that his occupancy will induce him some day, in a fit of generosity, to afford some remuneration in the shape of a day's labour.

627. What does the erection of a house usually cost the proprietor?—That will depend of course upon the dimensions and the materials of the house. Latterly in the competition which has arisen between the proprietors, every inducement has been held out to the labourers, and some have gone to greater expense than others in erecting houses, in order to induce them to come and place themselves upon the estate. The ordinary houses now built are of American timber, 20 feet long by 12 wide, constituting two rooms of 10 feet by 12, and the expense of erecting each of those is from above 200 dollars.

628. That house contains one family?—Yes.

629. Viscount *Howick.*] Are houses built entirely of American timber?—Yes; with some few exceptions. The manager of an estate situated in the interior, where the expense of cartage is very considerable, may find it more advantageous to cut down the country timber and build a house on the spot rather than cart American timber to that distance. But labour is so extravagantly high, that though the country is covered with timber, it is found cheaper to import it from America.

630. Then that timber is imported ready sawn?—Yes, and in many instances in frames for the houses; for under the tariff of duties it was found that the duty upon southern timber was less when imported as a manufactured article, consequently it was imported in house frames, and paid a lower duty than if brought in simply as timber.

631. *Chairman.*] Is it always understood when a labourer agrees to work that he stipulates for a house rent free?—There is no stipulation, it is perfectly understood as a matter of course.

632. Have there been any instances, within your knowledge, of negroes cultivating public or Crown lands without permission?—It is very extensively done at the present moment, and is one of the great grievances which we have to complain of.

633. What is the extent of these Crown lands so occupied supposed to be?—It cannot be ascertained, because no person interferes with the squatters; they do as they please, and there is apparently nothing to prevent it. I see, however, in the stipendiary returns contained in this blue book, that there have been one or two cases in which parties have been brought before a justice and ordered to quit the Crown lands; but the whole matter is one of great grievance in the island, where a public officer should be appointed as conservator of the Crown lands to take immediate and decisive steps against intruders.

634. Have there been any of those Crown lands sold by order of the governor since 1838?—None have been sold from that time.

635. Viscount *Howick.*] Are all these Crown lands improperly occupied?—There are some abandoned estates belonging to absent proprietors; upon which squatters may be found. But the greater part fix themselves upon Crown lands.

636. *Chairman.*]

636. *Chairman.*] What has been the ordinary price of land in Trinidad since 1838?—It can hardly be said that there is any price for land. If a planter wants a piece of ground that happens to be advantageously situated near his manufacturing establishment, he will give an extraordinarily high price for it; but some lands have been sold in the colony lately at 9*s.* 4*d.* an acre. I should observe, that squatting is not only a deduction, to the extent to which it goes, from the actual labour in the colony, but it is a bad example, which others are rapidly following every day.

637. Viscount *Howick.*] I observe it stated in the evidence which you took in the committee in Trinidad, that the negroes are not unwilling, for the sake of small allotments, conveniently situated, to pay a very high price?—They have paid very high prices indeed, but it is not for the purpose of cultivating them, but as a residence in the vicinity of towns. To avoid such a trifling distance as four or five miles, they have preferred giving 40, 50, or even 100 dollars for an allotment, when they might have bought one of the same size in the interior for four or five dollars.

638. It appears that some of those squatters have established themselves in the immediate neighbourhood of towns, and have themselves formed villages?—I should say, that none of the squatters have established themselves at any distance from the settled population.

639. They are generally in the neighbourhood of some population?—Invariably; I do not know an instance of any retiring into the interior to settle themselves.

640. That being the case, do you think there would be any objection to enforcing from persons so occupying land a considerable rent for those lands, if they chose to retain them?—The objection would be, that it would tend to reduce the number of labourers for wages.

641. Would it not have rather a tendency to the opposite effect, if the labourers were not allowed to occupy this land for nothing, but were compelled to pay a rent; would it not be an inducement to them to work for wages?—The great wish of the inhabitants is, that the Crown should at present dispose of no land, because under those circumstances, if the labourers desire to purchase it, they will be obliged to purchase it from the proprietor.

642. But with respect to those illegal occupations that you have been alluding to, would there not be considerable difficulty in ejecting the negroes; and would it not be more easy to compel them to pay a sufficient amount of rent for the occupation?—I do not think, at the present moment, there would be the slightest difficulty in ejecting them. If they are allowed to remain there will be a difficulty; a legal prescription may arise after a certain period in their favour. But when it is understood that at Trinidad we have not half as many labourers as we require, that wages are high, and that houses and grounds are furnished by the planters to the labourer gratis, there can be no hardship in a man being compelled to quit property that does not belong to him; he cannot suffer in the slightest degree; he will find a supper prepared for him, and a house over his head the first evening after his ejectment if only disposed to work.

643. I find it stated in one place, that as many as 100 are established, forming a village, and in others as many as 50 and 60; and that they are the only labourers to whom the planters in the immediate neighbourhood of those settlements can look for working upon the estates; would it not be objectionable to eject such a large number of labourers as those, from the settlements which they have formed?—I think you will find that many of them were labourers upon the adjoining estates, who merely remove over the boundary line to establish themselves where they can get a house and ground of their own, without any rent, and at the same time, make themselves independent of the solicitations of the proprietors and managers to work for them, they would only have to return over the line to occupy houses on the estates they had previously vacated.

644. Do you not think that it would be a strong motive to industry with the negroes, if they were given secure possession of those lands and houses, and at the same time compelled to pay a considerable rent for them, so that they might be under the necessity of earning wages to acquire the means of doing that?—It might be a motive to work the lands if they occupied under those

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circumstances; but I think it would prevent their labouring so assiduously upon the estates, as they would do if compelled to leave the Crown lands and return to the estates from whence they came.

645. Would they not be still more willing to work on the estates in the neighbourhood if they were under the necessity of earning money to pay the rent of those allotments?—Possibly they might, to that extent; but, upon consideration I think that if you asked them for any rent at all, they would not pay it; they would immediately return without any hesitation to the estate from which they came.

646. *Chairman.*] Would it not be possible to arrange among the proprietors in order to obviate that difficulty?—There can be no arrangement among the proprietors in a colony where such a competition for labour exists. The witness who was before the Committee yesterday pointed out, very correctly, that it is not the expenses of the estate which constitute the principal difficulty with the planter, for every thing depends upon the amount of crop that he makes, so that if he makes a large crop, there is a profit; if a small crop, though his expenses may be diminished in proportion, there is a loss. Every man, therefore, in the colony possessed of an estate and machinery, is most anxious to make a large crop, and to keep that machinery in full operation, he is anxious to get as many labourers as he can; hence arises the competition; it is in human nature, and it is indeed on that ground that we expect free labour to succeed by competition amongst all classes, between the labourers and between the proprietors, only unfortunately the materials by which our free labour is to be worked out are too small in proportion, and the experiment has operated disadvantageously hitherto in consequence.

647. Have you known of any instances of the purchase of estates by negroes?—None. I should suppose that it can exist in no other colony but Demarara; and I suspect that it arises there from the circumstance that it is utterly impossible to cultivate an estate but by a combined force, they are obliged to protect an estate by dykes against the inroads of the sea; in Trinidad, a man may take half or a quarter of an acre of land in any part of the island, and cultivate it without difficulty.

648. Mr. *Hawes.*] The proprietors give facilities, do not they, to the negroes in the purchase of land?—I think too much facility at the present moment.

649. They get very high prices, do they not, for the land they sell?—Yes, very high prices.

650. Do you know the highest price paid for an acre by a negro?—I think you will find it stated in the Trinidad evidence, that land has been sold at the rate of 1,000 dollars or 208 *l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* an acre, in small allotments. It is a fact which I can vouch for.

651. Then the proprietors are benefiting by this very high price of land?—One proprietor benefits; but the motive which induces him to sell land is this: he says, "If I refuse the labourer, he will go to another and buy a piece of land from him, and I shall lose his services altogether, whilst, if he remains on my estate I shall get some work out of him at least."

652. Viscount *Howick.*] Those labourers who purchase small allotments do practically continue to labour on the estate, do they not?—They do, probably, in a smaller degree.

653. *Chairman.*] Do you know any instances of the negroes cultivating the sugar-cane and manufacturing sugar, with a view to their own profit?—Not in the island of Trinidad.

654. Viscount *Howick.*] Have you ever attempted to induce them to cultivate the cane, and sell the cane to the planters, for the purpose of manufacturing?—It has been tried; and I have considered the subject, having seen Mr. Ross's account of it in Grenada, and the returns given by the stipendiary magistrates with respect to St. Lucia, but I do not think it can answer in the island of Trinidad, as our climate is variable, and the canes do not yield so much in January as they do in March. When you have a whole crop to make, you must begin in January, though at a loss. Now, unless the proprietor is disposed always to postpone his own profit to that of the labourer, who may be working in shares, on his estate, there would be a dispute and difficulty between them, each requiring that his cane should be cut in the most profitable portion of the season. That is one little difficulty. I could mention many others: but the great evil which is at the root of every difficulty in the island

island of Trinidad is the want of a sufficient labouring population. The experiment was tried by one gentleman, with the best intentions, and in a persevering way. The land was taken by a company of Americans, the best working people we have in the island, but it was found that they were enticed away to work at daily wages by the ad oining estates. They alleged, "We cannot work for you, because we have got our own canes and our own crop to attend to." That was met by the reply, "You can weed your own canes to-morrow; here are a few dollars, this is a little job, do come and do it." There was a distant profit in perspective, and an offer of cash in hand, and the result was that they neglected their canes so much that they did not ripen in time, and the value of them was, from pure kindness of the proprietor awarded and paid to the parties, and they were left to mature another year. That was the cause of the failure of the experiment; and I consider myself that the experiment must fail wherever there is a scarcity of labourers and wages are high: I do not find that it ever succeeded in any part of Europe, except in poor countries where there was no great amount of capital, and the employer found it advantageous to induce the labourer employ some of his own, because the labourer must in such case maintain and feed himself till the crop is ripe. I consider that it would be a retrogression in agriculture. I do not suppose that any gentleman in this country would adopt that system, or think it an advantageous one. It may be better, in order to coax the labourer to work in some way or other, than the present system in Trinidad, where they labour very little; but as a system to compete with slavery in Cuba and the Brazils, I should say it would never answer.

655. What you want, in short, is some additional inducement to the labourer to give a fair amount of labour?—Yes, we want a sufficient motive to induce them to work.

656. The labourer lives in much more comfort than he did during slavery, does he not?—There can be no comparison. The labourer is in a better state as to comfort, and luxuries of every description, than in any other part of the world, or than ever existed in any part of the world; for it can only arise from such an artificial state of things, as has been produced by emancipation.

657. By how many hours' labour in the week do you conceive that a labourer can now obtain the same command of the necessaries and comforts of life which he possessed as a slave?—I should suppose one day in a week, but I will make the calculation if the Committee require it. I think one day's labour in a week (which will give him in Trinidad one dollar), will maintain him for the week.

658. Mr. *Howard.*] Is there a great desire on the part of the negroes to obtain foreign luxuries?—A very great desire, indeed; I do not know any race of people who possess it more.

659. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the average day of labour that the labourers now give?—I do not think myself, upon the average of the whole number residing upon the estates, that it can be more than three or four tasks a week, which cannot be calculated at more than two days' labour.

660. Viscount *Howick.*] You say for those two days' labour the negro obtains the means of living twice as well as he could as a slave?—Yes; but when I allude to their luxuries, and the expenses which they go to, I mean only the industrious labourers upon the estate. But when I talk of two days' labour, I mean the average of the whole number, some of whom work only one day in the week, others only one task, which is but half a day's labour in a week.

661. And you think that that was an effect naturally to be expected from the change; that relieving them from slavery was equal to a great increase of wages in this country; and that naturally the labourers take part of that advantage; and that many are living better than before, and the rest have relaxed in their exertions?—The result has proved that that is the natural effect in a slave population.

662. *Chairman.*] Would it be possible to obtain the same return of produce at a diminished expense, by reducing the quantity of land in cultivation?—That is a question which a practical man can probably answer better than myself; but still my idea is, that very little would be gained by it in Trinidad. In fact, we can succeed in no plans, or make no improvements in our system, so long as we have not a command of labour. A great many improvements will be made, I have no doubt, and to a great extent; for I have no fear with

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regard to the result of free labour, if it is only made such as we have in Europe; I am satisfied it must be less expensive than slave labour, consequently there will be great improvements, and more will be raised from the land than at present. One witness, in the evidence taken before me in the island of Trinidad, stated distinctly that the labourers could raise twice as much provisions in their own grounds as they do now, from the slovenly nature of the cultivation.

663. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you think that the negro would work more hours in the week if he found that he could not live so well as he now does without greater industry?—No doubt of it; and if you take the statistics of all the colonies, you find that in inverse proportion to the rate of wages is the labour of the negroes.

664. Do you think that there would be any difficulty in a regulation made with that view?—I do think that regulations are wanting, which, if established would improve the present state of labour; but I doubt whether in the Island of Trinidad, where our labouring population is so small, any good can be effected but by an additional population, or by reducing the quantity of land we have in cultivation, and destroying a portion of the estates; and I have no hesitation in saying, that if I were the owner of every estate in Trinidad, or the island consisted only of the estates I own, I would to-morrow turn half of them out of cultivation, satisfied that I should get more profit from the remaining half than I can from the whole under the present state of the colony.

665. Is the negro subject to any taxes or any burden at present?—He is subject only to an indirect tax on all imported articles. There is a slight tax for the repair of the roads, which attaches only to those who are freeholders in the country.

666. He is not now compelled to pay anything for the education of his children, or for religious instruction?—He is not.

667. Do you conceive that if he were subject to direct taxation, for the purpose of meeting those expenses, he would in that case raise the money so required of him by additional labour, or by the curtailment of his necessary comforts?—I have no doubt he would work more steadily, because the moment after the change took place in November last, when wages were reduced although the reduction endured only for a short time, and when the allowances of rum and fish were taken away in those districts where they could effect it, all the accounts received from the island stated that they were working much better in consequence. They did not like to reduce their expenditure, and they made up the difference by working harder.

668. You conceive that if there were a rate upon the houses and grounds, or some direct taxation to provide for the expense of religious instruction, and the education of the children, the money so raised would be entirely earned by additional labour?—Yes.

669. Any measure of that kind would be advantageous in supplying a want which is very much felt, in addition to creating an inducement for the encouragement of industry?—Yes, and I have always considered it a bad plan to educate their children gratuitously when they have the means of paying for them liberally.

670. Mr. *V. Smith.*] Do you think the negro is so satisfied of the advantages of education and religious instruction that he would be willing to labour more in order to pay for them?—I think he would wish to have the same comforts and luxuries that he has at present; and that if you reduced his income, he would work an additional time to regain the amount.

671. But do you think he would willingly pay for those by increased labour?—He would not willingly pay for them, because we have attempted to induce him to do so, but have not succeeded.

672. But supposing the alternative was to be put to him that he was to obtain no religious instruction or education for his children, or to increase his labour, which do you think he would prefer?—Will the Committee permit me to amend my answer to the last question. My answer referred exclusively to education, which we have endeavoured in vain to induce them to pay for, but they will not; for religious instruction they have paid very liberally.

673. Viscount *Howick.*] I find, in the evidence which has been laid before us, which is given by Dr. Smith, the Roman-catholic bishop; he says, "There is a very great want of schools in some districts of Trinidad, and though the

negroes

negroes are perfectly able to pay for the education of their offspring, they refuse to do so?"—They are perfectly able to pay for the education of their children; but I know that in many cases where it was considered advantageous that they should be charged some trifling sum, the children were sent to school, but their parents never paid the amount required.

674. You confirm the truth of that statement?—I do.

675. And such being the case, you think it would be a great advantage if they were allowed no option in the matter, but were subjected to direct taxation for the purpose of defraying those necessary expenses?—I think they possess so much money at the present moment, that if you can deprive them of any portion for a good and advantageous object, and provided you can in any way compel them to send their children to school and pay the expense, in a mode consistent with a free and liberal government, it would be advantageous to the colony.

676. Do you think that if they were compelled to pay a tax, and a school were established, and it cost them no more to send their children, they would refuse to send them?—I do not think they would refuse, at the same time I do not think they are so advanced in civilisation that they would prevent in general their children from loitering and idling about; many of them, however, are extremely anxious that their children should be educated.

677. Mr. *Hawes.*] Then, in point of fact, if they were directly taxed for the purpose of secular and religious education, and it was left entirely to the negroes to benefit themselves by either religious instruction or education at their own choice, your opinion is that they would seek neither the one nor the other?—No; that is not my opinion. It is very probable, looking to the levity of the negro character, that a great many of them would not be very assiduous in sending their children to school; and that if you wish to reap all the benefit that should be derived from a compulsory measure, and which cannot be justified but by its being of great benefit to the community, you would have to enforce the attendance of the children generally, to effect it.

678. Do you mean a compulsory measure, a tax, or a compulsion upon the negro to send his children to school and to attend church?—I understood from the question that it was intended to be a compulsory tax; and I say, in answer, that to make it perfectly efficient, and to make it justifiable, it would be necessary to make the attendance of the children at school compulsory in some cases, if not in all.

679. Do not the negroes at this moment subscribe considerably to missionary establishments and to schools?—They do very considerably to church establishments, but not to schools that I am aware.

680. You are not aware whether they do or not contribute to missionary schools?—I am not certain with regard to schools, but if they did I should draw this distinction, that where they subscribe to missionary establishments, it is at the solicitation of the missionary, that there is a fashion in it, and a pride in doing so; and although they may give three, four, five, or eight dollars to religious establishments, if you were to ask them to pay monthly for a school for their children, you would find great difficulty, almost an impossibility, in effecting it. They have a great deal of pride and ambition, and do very handsome and very liberal things every day, but it is steady good conduct in a small way which is most required in the foundations of society.

681. But imposing direct taxation necessarily involves, of course, the raising of a certain fund for educational and religious purposes; how would you appropriate that fund when so raised?—If I understand correctly the questions put, the fund would be applied to educational and religious purposes, and would be levied solely for those purposes.

682. The present education, for which they now pay nothing, would then be withheld?—The present instruction is gratuitously furnished. If a sufficient fund for instruction were raised otherwise, the present payments would be withheld, because they would be perfectly unnecessary. I see by one of the last letters from Sir Henry Macgregor, Governor of the colony, that the colonial government paid towards the salaries of 23 school teachers in the island of Trinidad. Now, if a fund were raised purposely and expressly to pay those teachers, I presume that the present colonial expenditure for that purpose must cease of course.

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683. Viscount *Howick.*] You say there are 23 teachers now paid by the colony?—Twenty-three school teachers are paid wholly or partially by the government. The planters thought that our safety under emancipation depended much on improving the morals and education of the negroes, and in many instances they pay half the expense, and the government the other half; but the government partially or wholly pays for 23 school teachers in a population of 45,000.

684. Mr. *Hawes.*] That is paid out of the colonial funds?—Yes.

685. How is that levied?—By general taxation upon the imports and exports.

686. Which was paid, therefore, by the negro in proportion to his consumption?—Yes.

687. Viscount *Howick.*] Are those articles of consumption upon which duty is paid, chiefly luxuries?—A great many are required for the uses of estates, and the ordinary wants of the colony.

688. Looking at the actual condition of the colony, would it not tend to increase the motive for industry, if what is now obtained from the public revenue was raised in the form of direct taxation from the negroes rather than in an indirect form?—Most decidedly it would, judging from the States of Europe, where I find industry and habits of continual labour universal, which I ascribe mainly to the deductions from their earnings by taxation. It is the facility with which they get everything they require at a very easy rate, which renders it so difficult to get continuous labour in Trinidad from the negroes.

689. Do you think that there would be any difficulty in raising a direct taxation, which, without being felt oppressive to the negro, would supply a fund requisite for the services of the colony, and afford a strong inducement to industry?—I think it would be very difficult to raise anything from the negro population in the shape of direct taxation, from the difficulty in collecting it; but if you will describe the precise nature of the tax which you think advisable, I will state whether I think it could be enforced.

690. Suppose it were to be in the nature of a rate upon the houses and lands occupied by them, what is your opinion with respect to that?—That would produce very little in a colony where the greater part of the population occupy their houses gratuitously; it would only check their settling in houses of their own, and they would inhabit houses of the planters.

691. If the rate was payable by the tenant, would not that have a good effect?—They would refuse to pay, and the necessary process to enforce payment would create a great deal of confusion; so that although it would be highly advantageous, and for their moral advancement in every way, that a deduction should be made from the amount of their present income, I should rather recommend it in the shape of an indirect tax, from the difficulty of enforcing any other.

692. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the amount actually devoted to education now?—The Blue-books will show it; I cannot state it now, but I know it to be very ample, and what would be considered, looking at the community and their circumstances, a very liberal amount.

693. There is a sum annually appropriated for the purposes of immigration, which comes from the colonial fund?—Yes.

694. Which colonial fund, as you have stated before, is supplied by the duties on imports and exports?—Yes.

695. Therefore, that as far as it goes, falls upon the consumer and the negro?—Yes; if anything can be said to fall upon the negro labourer in a community where he has the command of the labour-market, and commands what wages he pleases; so that I think the whole amount comes from the proprietors of estates and owners of land.

696. It must make the cost of living dearer to the extent of the duties?—Then the labourer says, he will not work but at an additional price, and we see by the fact that wages have risen again lately, that he can enforce his demands.

697. Mr. *Howard.*] That would apply to any system of taxation, would it not?—Yes. I consider that all our evils arise from a want of population, and that the planter must pay the whole cost until that is remedied.

698. Viscount *Howick.*] Would it not have the same effect as an increased population

population if you got the present population to devote a larger proportion of their time to labour?—But the question is, whether that result could be effected, seeing that the competition for labour is so great as to force and compel the proprietors continually to increase the rate of wages.

699. You state, that the labourers, on the average, do not devote more than two fair days in the week to labour?—That is my opinion; I do not state it as a statistical fact, but I believe it to be the case.

700. If, by any regulation that you could establish, you could induce the negroes to do four fair days in the week, instead of two, would not the effect be precisely the same as if you doubled the population, leaving each man to do the same work as the negroes now do?—Provided we could make them all work steadily and continuously, it would have that effect; but the difficulty is to make them do it, so long as the number of labourers are not sufficient for the wants of the proprietors.

700. *Chairman.*] Has the supply of labour in Trinidad diminished considerably since the commencement of freedom?—The supply of labour has diminished considerably amongst the original labourers on the estates; but very nearly, probably, to the exact amount, the deficiency has been supplied and filled up by immigration; so that I presume, from what is stated in the Trinidad evidence, that the amount of labour at the present moment is pretty nearly what it was at the first period of emancipation; that is, with reference to field labour; but we find, with reference to manufacturing labour, that it is not the case; and we are of opinion that unless contracts for labour can be entered into, no number brought into the island will give us that continuous labour in crop time which will be found necessary to take off the crops.

702. Manufacturing labour has diminished?—Yes. I give as the reason for this result, that if you double the number of your labourers, even without continuous labour, you may do as much field work as before, because you have two men to do the work of one; but in the boiling-house you cannot double your force; you can only appoint a convenient number for a certain duty, and if they will not work steadily and continuously, you cannot take off the crop, which the increased number of labourers may have raised upon the estate.

703. Have you found since emancipation that they have ceased to work continuously in the boiling-house?—They have, to a very great and unfortunate extent.

704. Do females perform any field work at present?—They do.

705. Do they manifest any disinclination to labour?—No; and there is nothing like a feeling of degradation in Trinidad with reference to labour in the fields. The best people we have upon the estates prefer working in the fields to working in the boiling-house, because when they work in the fields they depend wholly upon themselves, and if they are active, industrious persons, they can make two tasks per day easily, and gain a large sum of money; whilst in the boiling-house they are obliged to work with others, and are retarded by those around them who will not work actively; so that the best labourers, and the most industrious, prefer the field to the manufacture of sugar on that account.

706. Is the proportion of field labour of the women now as large as it was during the period of apprenticeship?—The labour from all, men and women, is not so large as it was during apprenticeship.

707. Was the Saturday given in slavery and in apprenticeship as a holiday?—In apprenticeship it was given; in slavery it was given only out of crop.

708. How is it now?—They take any day they please, and unfortunately, there is no regulation but their own conscience.

709. Do you find that the women ever perform more than one task in a day?—Frequently; and before the holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, being a Catholic population in a great degree, and a great deal of splendour in dress and feasting displayed, I have known them before those holidays, for two or three weeks, work two tasks a day for several days consecutively.

710. Do you find that the same children work now in the lighter kinds of work?—Children do not work. In parts of the island, the country being hilly, the canes are carried on the backs of mules to the mill, and planters

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find it very difficult to get persons of light weight to ride the mules now, which work was always performed by boys before.

711. What becomes of the aged and helpless relatives of labourers under the present system; do they remain upon the estate on which the others labour?—They remain upon the estate. You rarely inquire into the circumstances of their families, the aged and infirm are taken care of by their friends and relations, and pauperism is quite unknown; I never heard of a person being in distress in the agricultural districts.

712. Has any Vagrant Act been passed in Trinidad?—A Vagrant Act has been passed, but it is not in force. Vagrancy exists all over the island, but it is the vagrancy of a gentleman who has money in his pocket, and who walks about just as he pleases for his amusement; they are not paupers.

713. You are one of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad?—I am chairman of the Agricultural Society.

714. In the present circumstances of Trinidad, with regard to the want of a continuous supply of labour, do you think estates can be kept up to remunerate proprietors?—I am sure they cannot, and I know as a matter of fact, that during the last year there were very few estates on the island, which, on balancing the accounts, were not left in debt, after paying the expenses of cultivation.

715. Will you state the particulars in which the planter suffers in consequence of this want of labour?—Generally speaking, I may say that he suffers, not so much from the amount of expenses incurred by the wages, high as they are, as from the neglect and the waste, and the damage which take place upon the estate, which you cannot protect yourself against, and which you hardly dare attempt, in many instances, to find fault with. One witness before the Trinidad committee spoke to the great additional expense in the loss of labouring cattle, the oxen, from the bad treatment that they now receive, not being properly fed and attended to, and being beaten and knocked about cruelly; in the time of slavery the average number upon his estate required for the day's work was four oxen, two in the morning, and two in the afternoon, by which light spelling, four oxen answered the purpose; but that he is now obliged to have seven oxen for the same work, so that in that shape alone a very material loss arises. The greatest loss arises from the deterioration in the quality of the sugar. A man is placed to skim a copper, and to attend to the work; he does not attend to the work, and you cannot compel him. And the same witness stated that the loss in this particular alone amounted to 4*l.* a hogshead, which was 1,200 *l.* sterling in the annual crop, simply from the deterioration of the quality of the sugar; and in every other department losses arise continually from the negligence of the labourers.

716. What you have now stated seems to arise incidentally from the want of labour?—It arises directly from the want of labour, which enables the labourer to do as he pleases, and you cannot find fault with him, because if you do he leaves your service, and you would rather have him to do his work badly than not have him at all.

717. Has there been diminished production in the colony?—Not to any very great extent; the large immigration we have had has prevented it.

718. Have the seasons been as favourable as usual in the last three or four years?—I think they have been; it is a very capricious climate, and though we are not subject to great droughts, we suffer occasionally from too much rain; we are pretty nearly exempt from severe or unseasonable droughts.

719. Can you state the quantity of sugar made in the last three years of slavery, the last three years of apprenticeship, and since the 1st of January 1839, in the island, or on any particular estates?—I have not the statement by me, but will be prepared with it at the next meeting of the Committee.

Lunæ 2° die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Lord Viscount Howick.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Lord Stanley.
Mr. Hawes.	Mr. E. Tennant.
Mr. Charles Howard.	Mr. V. Stuart.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Hardin Burnley, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

TRINIDAD.

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720. *Chairman.*] DO you wish to amend an answer given by you in your last examination?—I do; I was asked in No. 606, whether task-work was as well done now as during apprenticeship. My answer was distinctly in the affirmative, for it was given in a hurry, and with every wish not to exaggerate the evils under which the planter at present suffers; but I find, on consideration, that facts will not warrant the favourable opinion I gave. Every year previous to the commencement of crop I am furnished by the managers of estates with an estimate of the probable amount of the crop, and every year since apprenticeship ceased the falling off from the estimate given in, in the yielding of every field, is considerable; and the excuse invariably made is, that, when cut into, the interior was found not equal to the promise given by the appearance of the outside cultivation, caused by its not having been well and faithfully weeded, within as well as without. It is no doubt the case, as I stated, that a planter need not pay for the work until it is well done, and can call upon the labourer to repair it; but it is physically impossible for any overseer thoroughly to examine the whole work under a system in which the labourers scatter themselves over a field sometimes 40 acres in extent, and some working in the morning and some in the evening, according to their caprice; so that it is impossible for him to detect, at all times, slovenly and bad work; and this, I suspect, to be the cause why in Barbadoes, Antigua, and other islands, where labourers are abundant, and proprietors still retain a command over them, that task-work is not so general as it is in Trinidad. If the Committee will look into the Parliamentary Papers, contained in the Blue Book upon the table, relating to the affairs of Trinidad, at page 68 and question 51, where Frederick Maxwell, formerly a negro slave, and now manager of an estate, is asked, What is the cause of labourers removing so frequently from one estate to another? they will see that his reply is, that they do not like their work to be closely looked after, and they remove to another estate, where they think they will be allowed to do it more quickly and superficially; and in this case, it will be observed, his opinion, as to their slovenly work, was only given incidentally, and in reply to another question. I am satisfied, therefore, that the answer I gave at the last meeting was much too favourable, and that it cannot be correctly said that task-work is as well done now as it was during apprenticeship.

721. At the close of your former examination you were asked whether you could state the quantity of sugar made in the last three years of slavery, the last three years of apprenticeship, and since the 1st of January 1839; have you any particular statement to put in, in answer to that question?—I have brought the statement which the Committee require, showing the average quantity of sugar made in the three last years of slavery, the three last years of apprenticeship, and the three years of freedom which have elapsed since the 1st of January 1839, reducing the whole into tons weight, taking the hogsheads at 15 cwt. each, the tierces at 8 cwt., and the barrels at 2 cwt. The result exhibits a much greater falling off in the staple produce of sugar than I had supposed, for it is only latterly that I have been able to get the returns for 1841. The average annual export for the three years of slavery being 18,923 tons, and in freedom only 14,828 tons, showing a diminution of nearly 22 per cent. To make the return more complete, I have taken the liberty to show the average exports of coffee and cocoa for the same period, in which an interesting and striking feature presents itself. The export of cocoa has increased nearly 50 per cent., and of coffee above 30

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per cent., whilst sugar has fallen off 22 per cent. The cause of this anomaly is, simply, that sugar requires steady and continuous labour in the manufacture of it, in a much greater degree than cocoa or coffee; and that corroborates the opinion given by a planter, at page 99, question 615, of the Trinidad evidence, who states, that in spite of any increase of the labouring population, unless the mill and works of the sugar establishment can be kept in activity 14 hours in the day, no additional number of hands will enable him to take off his crop. It is easy to increase the cane cultivation, for if the labourers will not work more than half a day, by doubling the number of field hands you may get the whole work completed; but doubling the number of hands at the mill cannot grind the canes faster, or make the sugar boil more quickly in the boiling-house. This is the reason why success in sugar production becomes the test of our success in free labour; because it cannot be effected by force of numbers, but requires precision, skill, and combined continuous labour.

[*The Witness delivered in the Return, which is as follows:*]

TRINIDAD EXPORTS.

DATE.	SUGAR.			MOLASSES.		RUM.	COCOA.	COFFEE.
	Hhds.	*Trs.*	*Brls.*	*Hhds.*	*Trs.*	*Puns.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*
1831 - -	23,756	449	5,500	8,297	94	853	1,888,852	19,994
1832 - -	25,912	774	6,805	10,977	504	65	1,530,990	150,966
1833 - -	22,761	533	5,165	9,964	590	13	3,090,526	376,959
1834 - -	26,280	1,093	5,535	11,958	592	59	3,363,630	170,825
1835 - -	22,434	1,125	4,768	9,458	577	115	2,744,643	102,707
1836 - -	23,965	1,367	4,928	9,562	782	59	3,188,870	219,994
1837 - -	22,925	1,087	3,622	8,842	666	11	2,507,483	194,740
1838 - -	20,721	1,210	2,679	7,239	596	130	2,571,915	451,437
1839 - -	20,044	1,310	3,538	7,715	444	112	2,914,068	212,982
1840 - -	16,942	1,290	3,795	6,647	419	191	3,237,006	358,882
1841 - -	18,939	1,251	2,713	6,772	371	22	3,122,230	144,080

AVERAGES.

DATE.	SUGAR.			MOLASSES.		RUM.	COCOA.	COFFEE.
	Hhds.	*Trs.*	*Brls.*	*Hhds.*	*Trs.*	*Puns.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*
1831 - -	24,143	585	5,823	9,746	396	310	2,170,122	182,639
1832 - -	18,923 tons 11 cwt.							
1833 - -								
1835 - -	23,108	1,193	4,439	9,287	675	61	2,813,665	172,480
1836 - -	18,252 tons 2 cwt.							
1837 - -								
1839 - -	18,641	1,283	3,348	7,044	411	108	3,091,101	238,648
1840 - -	14,828 tons 15 cwt.							
1841 - -								

Number of Immigrants, 1840 - - - 3,186 including 20 children.
Ditto - - ditto - 1841 - - - 2,927 — 220 ditto. } *Trinidad Newspapers.*

722. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is the weight of a hogshead the same now as it was during the period of slavery?—Upon the general average throughout the island, I believe exactly the same; some planters will vary it occasionally, but I believe, taking it as a statistical result, you may consider that the weight has not been increased or altered on the average throughout the whole colony during those periods: I know that it has not been in my own case. I ought to observe, in reference to the return I have put in, that I have given the average quantity of sugar made during apprenticeship for the years 1835, 1836, and 1837; 1834 is left out, because it was a year one half of which was in slavery and the other half of which in apprenticeship. For the same reason, the average is taken upon the three years 1839, 1840, and 1841; 1838 being left out, because that was a neutral year of the same kind, between apprenticeship and freedom.

723. Has

723. Has dry weather prevailed at all in the island during the years 1839, 1840, and 1841?—On the whole, it has been average weather during those three years.

724. Is it or not the fact, that during those years any extraordinary drought prevailed in any one year?—We never suffer in the colony of Trinidad from any extraordinary drought; our crops are injured by too much wet weather; and I do not believe that there was more wet weather, so as to interfere with the crops, in the last three years of freedom, than in the three years of any previous period.

725. So that during those three years there was nothing extraordinary in the seasons?—No; I believe the three years were pretty nearly, on the average, one as good as the other.

726. *Chairman.*] You stated during your former examination that the colonial government of Trinidad had contributed towards the salaries of 23 school teachers. What is your opinion as to the moral improvement of the rising generation in consequence?—I am of opinion that the rising generation, instead of getting better and improving, are deteriorating in their morals every day. I observe that in the report of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners (folio 109), (upon the Trinidad evidence,) they have taken up a contrary opinion. It is from my own inquiries and observations in the island that I judge. I am, therefore, glad to have an opportunity of stating to the Committee my reasons for forming a different opinion. It appears that they have relied entirely upon the opinions given by the clergymen, and paid little or no attention to that of the planters. Now I am certainly of opinion that the opinions of the clergymen are not exclusively to be relied upon, for it is a very invidious task for any gentleman to speak unfavourably of his flock. On questioning them on the subject, which I did distinctly, I found that in reply they could give no reason for their opinion, except that marriages were much more frequent, that they were increasing in number every day, and that the attendance at church was much more regular than at any former period; both of which I know to be perfectly correct. But I do not think mere attendance at church, and an increased number of marriage ceremonies, constitute a sufficient test by which you are to judge of the civilisation and moral improvement of the labouring population. In looking at their evidence, when they were questioned more particularly, the Committee will observe that it is not so favourable as in general terms they express their opinions. At question 96 in the Trinidad evidence, page 70, the Reverend Mr. Muhlhauser, in answer to questions relating merely to the condition of the labouring classes, says that they are remarkably well off; and upon being questioned as to whether that was the case generally with the immigrants, he says: "Every man who is willing to work can find employment at good wages. Many of the young immigrants are too fond of play and carousing, and neglect, in consequence, their religious duties as well as their work; and I have much trouble in impressing moral duties upon them." That does not give a very favourable opinion, according to his own showing, of the rising generation. Then, in answer to question 115, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, after stating generally that a gradual improvement had taken place "in a more steady attendance at divine service, increasing marriages, and the abandonment of many superstitious and improper customs:" he is asked "Do you think that they have latterly improved in industry, frugality and sobriety?" and his answer is: "Considering their recent emancipation, and the benighted state in which it found them, added to the very high rate of wages they receive, I think there is more industry amongst them than we could reasonably have anticipated. With regard to their sobriety, the large quantity of rum gratuitously distributed on the estates presents a temptation to inebriety which they cannot resist; and I certainly cannot say that they are frugal, being very extravagant in their dress, and they squander much money in amusements and luxuries." "Then you do not consider that they have improved in these respects since emancipation?—Quite the reverse." Here is a distinct answer in the negative to the question, whether they have improved in sobriety, industry, and frugality since emancipation.

727. Do you not think that that answer has especial reference to the practice of supplying the labourers with rum?—Yes; but I understood the Committee to wish to know whether, in point of fact, the labourers had improved or not. Undoubtedly the practice of supplying them gratuitously with rum has conduced greatly to this state of affairs; but there is still stronger evidence given by the

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Bishop of Agna, in answer to question 419. I have taken the liberty of referring to the evidence of these reverend clergymen, because the opinion of the Commissioners seems to have been formed upon their evidence. He there says, that in his opinion "emancipation has had the most favourable effects upon their general conduct and behaviour, particularly in a religious point of view; although I am sorry to say, that in some parts of Trinidad there are great deductions to be made from this favourable statement." He then goes on to say, in his answer to the next question, that morality varies in the different islands; and that he considers that there has been a greater improvement in industry and general moral conduct in Saint Lucia than in Trinidad.

728. Mr. *Hawes.*] Will you have the goodness to read the reason that he assigns for that superior sobriety and morality in Saint Lucia, as compared with Trinidad?—The Bishop of Agna, in reply to question 426, as to the causes to which he ascribed such an extraordinary difference between Saint Lucia and Trinidad, says that he thinks it is owing "to their all speaking the same language" in Saint Lucia, which is French, "and living generally under resident proprietors, amongst whom there is more of courtesy and less competition than apparently exist amongst employers in Trinidad, judging at least from the evidence which has been taken;" for the Bishop had only read the previous part of the evidence, having just arrived from Saint Lucia when he was examined. I do not mean to dispute the opinion of the Bishop, or to say that the state of morality in Saint Lucia is not very much greater than it may be in Trinidad; but to enable this Committee the better to understand what is the state of morality in Trinidad, I will now show them what the state of morality is in Saint Lucia, which the Bishop declared to be so infinitely superior to that of Trinidad. This is from a stipendiary magistrate, an officer of the Government, and who evidently is no partisan of the planting interest, from the nature of his reply, which goes immediately and directly to the subject now before the Committee, as to whether marriages and attendance at church constitute a sufficient proof or evidence of increasing improvement in morality. It is in the return that he makes to the Government, by order of the Government, as to the general character and condition and moral improvement of the peasantry. After a long and flattering paragraph in their favour, all of which I have no doubt they well deserve, he states, in page 155: "Such are the improvements visible in the negro character and condition. Now let us see where he has not improved: alas! it is in his morals principally. He has the same petty disregard to the rights of *meum* and *tuum*; the same propensity and readiness to tell lies; the same, nay increased libertinage in both sexes; the same utter want of correct religious principles, and the same debasing belief in and fear of witchcraft and sorcilage. How alas! can it be otherwise in a colony like Saint Lucia, where amongst the numerous proprietary body, there is a want of both means and inclination to aid in the moral and religious training of the labourer, and where two proprietors only have, as yet, made any endeavours to encourage education; and especially where, in those who call themselves the 'better classes,' rectitude of morals is the exception, not the rule; and consequently, where no other than bad examples are shown, and shown openly too, to a race with whom example is all powerful. It has been said that the increased number of marriages between the newly freed, and the increased attendance at church, prove a better style of things than what I have sketched above; I regret that I cannot affirm this. Of the few marriages which do take place, the majority is contracted between old people who for long periods have cohabited together; and it is, although painful, really laughable at times to see the decrepitude decked out in finery appearing before the altar. Most of these couples legitimate the tie which already binds them together, from the desire to emulate their former masters. The same with their attendance on Sundays and fête days. It is the custom in the Roman-catholic churches of this island to put up the sittings to public auction once a year. The last annual sale took place last Sunday in this parish, and about 100 places were purchased by the newly freed, at prices varying from two to six dollars, mostly by women, who, I am sadly afraid, go to church principally to display their finery." The Committee will observe from this statement, that if St. Lucia is so infinitely superior in morality to Trinidad, the latter island cannot be in a very favourable state as to the moral improvement of the labourers at this moment.

729. Mr. *Smith.*] Is that opinion of Mr. Bennett which you have quoted, generally

generally coincided in by the other stipendiary magistrates of St. Lucia?—I have read their reports, and I do not think that I have observed any differing from him upon these points, that is, marriage and attendance at church; but none of the others have given their opinion so distinctly upon that subject as he has done, which is my reason for quoting him.

730. *Chairman.*] In the examination of Dr. Smith, the Roman-catholic bishop, to whose evidence you have already adverted in question 421, page 88, you find a very remarkable statement made by him with regard to the island of St. Lucia, that 12,000 negroes, being, as I understand from his answer, the whole labouring population of the island, had subscribed no less than 3,540*l.* sterling for the purposes of religion and education; do not you consider that statement to be at variance with the opinion which you have just read of Mr. Bennett?—No, I do not think it is at variance, viewing the general character and condition of the negro population at present; they have abundant means, and they will very liberally subscribe those means for any institutions with which they are immediately connected. As I stated to the Committee the other day, I have no doubt that to-morrow, if the clergymen who lead them were to request them to subscribe for a school for their children, they would subscribe a large sum of money; for their names are put down, when the subscription is given, and published in the colonial paper; but if you ask the same people to pay a trifling sum weekly for their children at school, and to do so steadily and regularly, you will not obtain the money from them.

731. Have you found, in Trinidad, that large sums of money have been raised by the labourers for religious purposes?—Yes, there have been sums of money raised for the building of churches.

732. And also for the spread of education?—I do not think any sums of money have been given by them for the building of schools, but I have no doubt that they would be ready to do so at the solicitation of the clergymen presiding over them.

733. Mr. *Smith.*] Having, as you say, carefully examined the reports of the stipendiary magistrates of St. Lucia, is it your opinion that their account of the moral condition of the peasantry of St. Lucia agrees with the one you have just read, or that the one you have just read is a special exception to the opinion of the stipendiary magistrates?—I have not devoted very much time to the study of those reports; I have merely run through them, in the short period since they were printed.

734. Will you have the goodness to turn to the succeeding report, in p. 162; Mr. Colquhoun there says, "My various monthly reports to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor have, in every instance, borne favourable testimony to the general character and condition of the peasantry, and personal experience and observation induce me confidently to predict, that every month will add to their morality, industry, and harmony with their employers." Do you conceive that that opinion agrees with the opinion you have quoted of Mr. Bennett?—I do not think it is inconsistent. Mr. Bennett speaks as to the actual existence of affairs, and this is a prediction only as to what Mr. Colquhoun expects will arise.

735. Will you turn to the last paragraph, p. 162, of Mr. Colquhoun's report. "I can have no hesitation in stating, as my previous remarks sought to prove, that the abolition of slavery effected the greatest improvement in the 'manners,' 'habits,' 'tastes,' 'rate of mortality,' and 'offences, as to nature and frequency, of the peasantry.' I believe that they would have been in a much more advanced state now but for the intervention of apprenticeship, which kept the apparently enlightened employer in hostility with his really ignorant labourers, and kept in fermentation and existence disputes and misunderstandings, which have not totally subsided or been done away with at this moment?"—I do not think that it is contradictory of Mr. Bennett's opinion; it is only as to their manners, habits, tastes, and rate of mortality.

736. There is a question put to the next special magistrate, in answer to which he says, "There has been a progressive improvement in the general character and condition of the peasantry since the dissolution of the apprenticeship. Marriage, formerly but little known among them, is now of common occurrence, and the greatest number of marriages that have taken place have been between those who had been cohabiting together, and many of them with a numerous offspring; this is of more importance than one would at first be led to imagine, as by the French law, which governs this colony, excepting certain

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modifications made by the British Government, persons who have been living together, no matter for what period, can by marriage legitimate their offspring; and should the parents die without a will, the children enjoy, share and share alike, whatever property may be left." Do you conceive that that account coincides with the opinion given by Mr. Bennett?—I do not wish to give an opinion upon the relative merits of the stipendiary magistrates of St. Lucia, but the latter only states only that marriages are very frequent, which I have never denied; for I am certain that they are much more frequent throughout the colonies, and in a very great degree, than they were previously to emancipation. I only say that marriage ceremonies in themselves alone are no sufficient test of an improved state of morality amongst the negro population.

737. Mr. *Hawes.*] You referred to the evidence of Mr. Muhlhauser, with a view to show that the state of the labouring population was not so good as the report of the Land and Emigration Commissioners in London asssumed it to be; does not Mr. Muhlhauser refer not to creoles but to immigrants?—He refers to immigrants, because the question was put to him specially and particularly with relation to immigrants, at question 89 he refers to the whole population.

738. Sir *C. Douglas.*] It is noticed in the report of the Land and Emigration Commissioners that there were no labourers examined by the committee in Trinidad; can you account for that?—I think that was under the idea that they could not give us any useful information. I regret now that some labourers were not examined, in order to satisfy public opinion in this country; but it was not considered at the time that they could give any very useful information.

739. Mr. *Hawes.*] Were there any Wesleyan or Presbyterian missionaries examined?—There were no missionaries examined; there are very few in the island of Trinidad; there is a Presbyterian clergyman there, but I think it doubtful whether there are any missionaries; for the last five or six years I have not been a regular steady resident in the colony; having been principally employed in the business of the colony abroad.

740. Mr. *Smith.*] What was the course that you pursued of calling evidence before you; did you take any that was offered, or did you call for it?—We took all that was offered to us; and immediately after the evidence was taken it was published in the colonial papers, that everybody in the island might have an opportunity of seeing the nature of it, so that if any persons thought that it was not fair and correct, they might have an opportunity of coming forward and contradicting it; and before the evidence closed, I wrote a special letter, as chairman, to the Governor, informing him that the evidence was nearly closed, and that I should be happy, if he thought it necessary or advantageous, to examine any gentleman that he might send before us for that purpose.

741. Mr. *Hawes.*] What reply did the Governor make?—The reply will be found in the Blue-book; he declined sending any person before the committee.

742. He declined to be a party in any way to the proceedings?—He declined to be a party to the proceedings.

743. You have stated distinctly that there are no missionaries within your knowledge in Trinidad?—Within my knowledge or recollection, none.

744. Or teachers of the Mico schools?—There are teachers of the Mico school.

745. And none of those were examined?—They were not; the principal of the Mico school was not in the island at the time; I inquired for him with the express intention of having him examined, if he would appear before the committee.

746. *Chairman.*] Is the Presbyterian clergyman to whom you alluded, the only dissenting minister in the island?—I cannot reply distinctly to that; I was there but six months latterly.

747. You have stated, in a former answer, that the practice pursued by the colonial authorities has deterred labourers from entering into contracts for labour; how has that been effected?—The colonial authorities I believe, follow out distinctly the orders they receive from this country, and the way in which it has deterred labourers from entering into contracts I conceive arises from this circumstance, an ordinance passed here has rendered all contracts for labour illegal and void, if made out of the colony of Trinidad. Whenever a vessel arrives with immigrants from any foreign port, the immigration agent is sent on board, and the first step he takes is distinctly to inform them that all contracts they have entered into previously to their arrival in the island are illegal, and that they are not

not bound to abide by them; the consequence of which is, that the immigrants take up an impression that it is not the fashion in the island of Trinidad to enter into contracts; they inquire of those around them, and they find that not a single man in the island has entered into a contract. I think that this first information which they get, and which is given to them very emphatically, as will be found in the evidence, questions 668 to 679, when the immigration agent goes on board, has a very powerful effect in deterring all labourers in Trinidad from entering into contracts, even after their residence in the island.

748. Are you of opinion that it would be advantageous to legalise contracts for labour made out of the island?—Decidedly, I think it would be highly advantageous to legalise contracts made out of the island. I have given already one good reason, viz. that I think the want of legalising those contracts has established a bad custom within the island of declining contracts; but, independently of that, I consider that it would be highly advantageous to the immigrants themselves coming into the island if foreign contracts were legalised. I have considered the subject with a great deal of attention, and I cannot find out one single reason why contracts made out of the island should not be legalised.

749. Viscount *Howick.*] Should you not apprehend that if contracts were allowed to be entered into out of the island, they would be frequently entered into with labourers quite ignorant of the rate of wages?—I think that probable; and in legalising contracts made out of the island, I should recommend, at the same time, that all contracts should be reconsidered upon the arrival of labourers in the colony, that those which are found to be fair and useful, and advantageous to the labourers, should be confirmed, and that those which are unfair should not be allowed. There would be no difficulty in doing it; but, under the present system, if it is intended to be for the benefit of the labourers, the public officers either go too far or they do not go far enough. In the first instance, a contract entered into, whatever may be the nature of it, whether good or bad, is vitiated and rendered null and void. If this is done solely for the benefit of the negroes, why, after annulling the contract, which may be a good one, should not the same care and attention be paid to see that the next contract which the negro makes is a fair and advantageous one? But no attention is paid to that; all that is done by the officer is to annul the previous contract, though it may be a good one. What is the consequence? The vessel is always surrounded by a number of negro crimps, every one of whom is paid 20*s.* a head for engaging labourers for the service of individual parties; no written contract is then entered into; it is merely a verbal one; and I am satisfied that under those circumstances the ignorant immigrants who arrive in the island make a variety of engagements which in the result are infinitely more disadvantageous to them than if they were allowed to make contracts out of the island, which might subsequently be examined, and rejected or confirmed by a Board in the colony.

750. The arrangement you would wish to carry into effect would be that contracts made out of the island should be legalised, but not, I presume, for any very long period of time?—I should not wish those contracts to extend beyond 12 months, but I wish that contracts generally should be written ones, It would not, I think, be possible to carry on agricultural labour in England unless you had contracts established with the labourers.

751. And you would also require that those contracts should be at what is, considering the demand for labour in Trinidad, a fair rate of wages, according to the market rate of wages existing in the island?—I consider that the rate of wages agreed on should be considered by a Board established for the purpose in the island on the arrival of immigrants, and that if found to be unfair and not sufficient, the said contract not to be allowed.

752. When you say unfair and not sufficient, do you mean below the prevailing rate of wages in the island?—I do not; because it is totally impossible to clothe, maintain, and give medical attendance and medicine to a man whether in sickness or in health, and especially to immigrants, who, under all circumstances, in coming to a new climate are liable to more of indisposition than the natives, and to pay him the same sum that would be paid to a labourer who is accustomed to the climate, and who can provide himself with those necessaries. It must necessarily be lower.

753. If it must be lower than the common rate of wages in the island, do not

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you conceive that there would be some dissatisfaction in the mind of the negro, when on his arrival be found that he was bound to work for twelve months at that rate of wages?—I do not think that it would be so; you might as well say that when you employ a farm-servant upon your estate he will be dissatisfied because the reaper and mower who come in and work for a few days occasionally get double the wages that he receives. The negro labourer is very acute and very intelligent, and understands his own interest perfectly. Besides, as a fact, I do not find that it has been the case. They rarely complain the first year; the change has always been a better one for them, coming from other parts where wages were low, to Trinidad, where they are high; they are satisfied; they go through the year contentedly; but dissatisfaction will ensue if the indentures are for a long period, when the man is accustomed to the island, and discovers that he is fit for and can find employment which is more advantageous. But during the first year I am sure the disadvantages arising out of a contract would not be equal to the disadvantages that now attach to the immigrant by those contracts being annulled. I would also add, that in the United States, where the people are very intelligent, when I endeavoured to procure labourers, the people there stated to me that they would prefer entering into contracts in America; if it were legal and were allowed, they would prefer it, and I can prove to the Committee that it is to their interest to do so.

754. Mr. *V. Stuart.*] Does not that arise from the labourer not knowing the real state of demand for labour in the island, and that he does not feel sure of obtaining such good wages upon his arrival?—Decidedly; I tell him the wages are so much; "You will get this, and you will get that;" he requests that an engagement may be made between us to ensure his having that amount of wages; and upon my objecting on the ground that it is illegal and that I cannot do it, great dissatisfaction ensues, he doubts my word, and in consequence many are deterred from coming to the island. This I am perfectly aware of, and also that many went single instead of carrying their wives and children with them, that they might be perfectly certain that the information I gave them was correct, before they would commit themselves with their families to so serious a step.

755. If there is any alteration in the contract upon the arrival of the immigrant, is it not always in his favour, the wages being higher instead of lower, from the scarcity of labour in the market?—There can be no alteration in the contract; it is entirely cancelled; all contracts made out of the island are null and void within the island.

756. Mr. *Hawes.*] No contract is legal unless made before a special justice?—Exactly.

757. Mr. *Stuart.*] You can have no difficulty in inducing immigrants to come, from your not being able to enter into contracts, when the alteration must always be in favour of the immigrants, from the scarcity of labourers in the market; the labourer can have no apprehension of receiving less than that which he has contracted for, but he may probably receive more?—But the immigrant is entirely ignorant of the state of affairs in the colony; and that is the reason why, in the case I have cited, he is desirous to enter into an agreement beforehand, as he himself cannot know what exists in the island of Trinidad.

758. Then, is it not better to let him, upon his arrival in the island, make an agreement than to let him enter upon terms previously to his arrival, when he is perfectly ignorant of the state of affairs in the country?—No, I think not, for the reasons I have given; but there are others. I have already stated, that until we can get contracts for labour in the island of Trinidad, there can be no continuous cultivation; but, looking only at the advantage to the immigrant himself, I have no hesitation in saying that it would be much more beneficial to him to make an engagement with a proprietor out of the island, subject to the approbation of a Board, than to allow the present practice to continue.

759. You think it would be advisable to have the contract legal, so far as this, that he should be sure of receiving a certain amount of wages; but that if the amount of wages in the island were higher, he should have the option of seeking employment elsewhere?—No; the higher wages which he would be offered, would be wages entirely independent of any engagement to take charge of him in sickness and in health, and of maintenance and provisions; for how is an immigrant at first to know how to provide himself even with the necessaries of life? if you allow him to take advantage of the higher wages, you must allow him

him to do as he does now, break his engagement altogether, and get the highest wages he can from another proprietor.

760. Lord *Stanley.*] Your meaning with regard to the contract is, that on the one hand the employer should engage to give so much; and on the other, the labourer, before he arrive in the island, and has an opportunity of knowing the state of affairs, should contract to give his labour for a definite period for not more than the amount of his contract?—Exactly: at the same time, as the labourer may be totally ignorant of the state of affairs in Trinidad, as he may be like the labourer in Sierra Leone, making 2*d.* a day, and would be captivated with the idea of 4*d.* or 6*d.*, I would have a Board established in the colony to examine all engagements before they were allowed to be valid in the island; and if they did not give a fair and reasonable payment for services, that they should not then be confirmed.

761. Mr. *Smith.*] Are the labourers in Sierra Leone entirely ignorant of the state of wages in Trinidad?—Not at the present moment, I believe.

762. Have not orders been sent out that the rate of wages in the West India Islands should be promulgated at Sierra Leone?—There have, as respects Trinidad.

763. Lord *Stanley.*] You contemplate carrying on the whole of this through a government agent; do you contemplate that that government agent should distribute the labourers according to his own pleasure, among the different colonies, and in each colony among the different planters; and that he should have the power of entering into contracts, not only for separate colonies but for individuals, by which those individuals should be bound?—He must have that power, certainly; I presume that he will receive a communication from the governor of Trinidad, stating the number of employers who are anxious to receive so many labourers under the terms and conditions which he may propose.

763.* Mr. *Hawes.*] Will you refer to a despatch of Sir Henry Macleod to Lord John Russell, dated Trinidad, 28th August 1841, page 61, and give some information to the Committee with regard to the two passages which I will read: "Your Lordship is aware that a certain number of labourers arrived here from Sierra Leone. They brought with them a printed paper, signed by Mr. Hamilton, the emigration agent, setting forth the advantages to be derived by emigrating to Trinidad. These terms, as I have acquainted your Lordship, have been altered by the curtailment of all allowances, of which these people naturally complain." And will you refer also to a despatch of Lord Stanley's, of the date of the 18th of November 1841, wherein his Lordship says, "With respect to those labourers," that is, the labourers engaged by Mr. Hamilton, "any such reduction must be regarded as a breach of faith." With regard to what you have stated, as to the improvement of the terms which the labourer might expect on his arrival, as compared with those under which he was engaged, will you have the goodness to give the Committee some explanation of the transaction referred to?—I will endeavour to explain the transaction, as far as it is in my power, and I think that the whole of those two letters, and also the subsequent letter that has been written by the noble Lord at the head of the Colonial-office on the 22d of March, entirely corroborate the view which I have taken of the subject, and of the necessity of establishing previous contracts for a short period, for the purpose of assuring the comforts of immigrants. In this case an agent was appointed by the colonial government of Trinidad, by the permission of the Executive in this country, and sent to Sierra Leone for the purpose of inducing emigrants to come from thence; he was consequently informed as to the state of wages in Trinidad when he went away; we could give him no better information; we could only inform him what was the absolute state of wages at that period. It unfortunately occurred that subsequently the price of sugar fell in England, and wages immediately fell in the island of Trinidad. This is what the governor states to Lord John Russell. Now all the difficulty would have been obviated, if there had been an agreement made with those people; if Mr. Hamilton, the agent, instead of being prepared only with general information as to the rate of wages, had carried with him the names of individuals in Trinidad prepared to enter into a contract with those labourers; who would engage to furnish them with specific accommodation, and pay them specific wages, for a whole year; there would then have been no difficulty in the transaction: the difficulty now is extreme; and I do not see how prudent

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emigrants from Sierra Leone, or any other parts of the world at a distance from Trinidad, can otherwise be induced to go there.

764*. Will you allow me to remind you, that the terms offered were specific, as you will find at the bottom of page 48; you will find that those terms are afterwards withdrawn. In a letter from Sir Henry Macleod to Lord John Russell, you will find that there is a subsequent despatch of Lord Stanley, regarding the withdrawal of those terms as a breach of faith. Can you offer the Committee any information, inasmuch as you have been understood to state that the terms of emigrants may be bettered on their arrival, as compared with the terms on which they were originally engaged?—I do not think that, on reference to my reply, it will be found that I have stated that the terms made with immigrants abroad, may be expected always to be better on their arrival. I have stated distinctly that, in consequence of the high rate of wages in Trinidad, I do not know, generally, that they could come from any part of the world, in which they would not find wages higher in Trinidad than in the country which they had left. With regard to this particular case, an engagement was made by the colonial agent of the government of Trinidad; the inhabitants had no control over him; he was not appointed by the inhabitants of Trinidad. The Governor inquired of them as to the rates of wages which were then given in Trinidad. They gave the Governor a fair reply. Possibly he may have asked them, whether those wages were likely to continue. And they might have replied, that they did think they would continue. But this could only be a matter of opinion, and the subsequent fall in the sugar market, and the consequent reduction of wages, was a contingency that the inhabitants could not be prepared to expect. No doubt it was a very awkward circumstance; but as to the breach of faith, I do not consider that the colonists of Trinidad can be accused of any breach of faith in consequence; the whole difficulty simply occurred from the want of indentures and engagements out of the island; if that had been the case the whole of the emigrants would have been ensured, and the employers in Trinidad would have been compelled, notwithstanding the fall in the sugar market, and the fall in wages, throughout the whole period of the agreement, to pay the amount of wages stipulated.

765*. Are the Committee to understand you to state that Mr. Hamilton was appointed by the Government, and that it was an appointment originating with the Government, and over which the local government, or the planters interested in the island, had no control?—Mr. Hamilton was appointed by the Government at the solicitation of the Agricultural and Immigration Society.

766*. Of which you are a member?—Yes, and of which I am the chairman; but it was entirely an Executive appointment; they had no control, nor any other voice in the matter than that of recommending it.

767*. And in pursuance of that recommendation he was appointed?—He was.

768*. He was a party to the offering of those terms, in concurrence with the authorities of Trinidad?—In concurrence with the colonial authorities under the Government of Great Britain.

769*. Then why were the terms attempted to be altered by the authorities of Trinidad subsequently to the engagement of those labourers?—Because it was entirely impracticable to carry them into execution; Who were the parties who were to fulfil that engagement, so far as it may be called an engagement, by Mr. Hamilton? When those people arrived in Trinidad; no indenture had been made to bind any employer to pay them a fixed rate of wages or to bind them to stay for a fixed period with any employer.

770*. But were they not engaged upon specific terms?—There were specific terms held out by Mr. Hamilton with regard to food and wages, but there were no specific terms of service; which I beg to dwell upon, because in my opinion, it is the sole cause of all the difficulty and breach of faith alluded to. These people arrived in Trinidad, and went to work as day labourers with the planters, and a fall in wages occurred afterwards. Now, I have no doubt that if Sir Henry Macleod had found all the Sierra Leone people working steadily with the parties who had employed them on their arrival, he would have induced them, for the general credit of the colony, to have continued to pay the same rate of wages; but when he made the inquiry, he found that from the absence of all contracts there were few or none of them to be found with the parties with whom they first engaged themselves. Some of them, at the time he made those

those inquiries possibly had not been in the service of their employers more than two or three days; it was, therefore, impossible to expect that they would pay the original amount stated by Mr. Hamilton in Sierra Leone.

771*. Then the expectations held out by Mr. Hamilton to the labourers at Sierra Leone were not realised on their arrival in Trinidad?—They were not; and it is impossible until contracts are made between the parties that there can be any certainty of their being realised, because there must always be variations in the value of produce here, and consequently a variation in the value of wages there.

772*. Lord *Stanley*.] What I understand you to recommend, therefore, is that instead of there being an agent who should sanction the employment of emigrants from Sierra Leone into Trinidad upon a general expectation guaranteed by the Government of a certain rate of wages, that there should be an agent there who should sanction engagements entered into between particular planters and certain labourers for a term of service?—Yes, for a variety of reasons; in the first place it would then be known in Sierra Leone how many labourers were required in Trinidad. I may possibly be asked subsequently by the Committee, how many immigrants I think the inhabitants of Trinidad may require, and it would puzzle any man to give a direct answer to that question; but if you allow contracts to be entered into previously, proprietors in Trinidad will hand in a list to the colonial government, and offer to engage a fixed number of labourers on certain terms in Sierra Leone or elsewhere; then you will know exactly what number are required in the island of Trinidad, and ships could be sent for the express purpose of bringing them. There will then be no loss or expense. But there has been an immense loss and expense in the late arrangements. I know of three or four vessels that have gone over and returned with not more than one or two, and some with no immigrants for Trinidad; this is a dead loss and expense to the nation.

773*. What period of contract do you contemplate?—Not exceeding twelve months; and if that cannot be acceded to by Government, we would rather have it for six months than not at all.

774*. Suppose the contract to be entered into by particular planters for six months, or for twelve, upon whom would you desire that the expense of emigration should fall; upon the colonial fund generally, or upon the individuals for whose benefit immigration was, in the first instance, to take place?—I should say decidedly upon the colonial fund, because I am satisfied that the whole colony would benefit by their introduction: many difficulties may occur if it falls upon individuals. For instance, if the Board appointed in the colony to examine into the fairness of the contracts found it necessary to take an individual away from an employer, there would be a difficulty, and a variety of other circumstances suggest themselves which render it less advantageous to make the employers pay the expense than to make the colony pay it; but rather than not have an additional population, which is so essentially necessary, I should let the employers pay the expense, if it cannot be done in any other way; but this great difficulty would then arise, the rate of wages would depend upon the expense of bringing him there; the employer would naturally say, "If I am to pay the whole expense of bringing him from Sierra Leone or elsewhere, I must have a proportionate deduction in the amount of the regular rate of wages for his carriage for that distance," and this would be a great deduction. The colony must pay it; I think I can show, if I am questioned upon the subject, that it would be an advantage to the colony to pay it.

775*. Mr. *Hawes*.] Would you propose that this special agent, who should enter into contracts with the labourers, should secure them certain money-wages for fixed periods of service?—I think I stated that the engagement should be first made in Trinidad, and should be sent from thence through the medium of the executive government there; consequently the governor would not forward them if they were not fair and liberal engagements.

776*. Would you give such special agent the power to enter into contracts of service for periods of time, at a fixed money rate of wages?—The contract should be for a fixed time and for a fixed money rate of wages; my opinion is that there should be no agents for the different colonies: every colony now appoints an agent, who are running a race of competition at an extravagant expense to teh colonies they represent. I should say, let that be spared, and let the govern-

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ment superintend the whole stream of immigration. Then they can govern it, and fashion it as they think necessary.

777*. What terms would such an agent be authorised to offer in respect to the different colonies in which wages may vary?—My idea is, that the government agent in Africa would receive from the governors of the different colonies requiring immigrants, the terms which the inhabitants in that colony had already pledged themselves to enter into, and those are the terms he would be authorised to offer

778*. Would such an agent have power to enter into specific contracts both for fixed rates of money-wages and for fixed periods of service? I wish to ask this question in conjunction with a despatch of Sir Henry Macleod of the 28th of August 1841, in page 61, in which he states that, "In the unsettled state of the sugar duties, it is impossible to foresee to what further extent reductions may take place?"—Precisely so; and from that impossibility of foreseeing, and from the great probability of wages varying from time to time, I say let indentures and engagements be made between parties in the island of Trinidad and labourers in Africa, in which those parties would be pledged and bound to pay a certain rate of wages for 12 months, whatever contingencies might arise.

764. You state that in Trinidad there are so many planters who are willing to receive so many labourers, but the engagements are to be made between individual and individual. Suppose a dozen planters to be ready to receive a couple of hundred labourers from Sierra Leone, do you propose that the government agent in Sierra Leone should have the power of selecting the individual immigrants who are to be separately bound to enter into contracts with the several planters; and that he should, on behalf of each of those planters, enter into a contract to employ each of those immigrants at fixed money-wages?—To that extent I have not as yet considered the subject particularly; I am first anxious to know whether there is any probability of such a plan being allowed and permitted.

765. Is it not necessary, in recommending the appointment of a government agent, to consider precisely what you mean by a government agent, and what duties he would have to perform?—No doubt it is quite requisite; and in considering the question as now put to me, I think there would be no difficulty. If a request were made by the governor of Trinidad for 200 or 500 labourers, the colony would be decidedly bound to receive them under the terms stated; and I have no doubt that the governor would make such arrangements within the colony as to render it perfectly sure, that on their arrival there, the parties who had applied to him to engage them would take their share and provide for them according to agreement. I do not think there would be any difficulty in that arrangement.

766. Your objection to the present arrangement is, that the guarantee is a nominal guarantee, because it is given by the colony generally, not by the individual planter; how would that be removed under the system of the government agent, as proposed by you?—Because there would then be individual parties in the colony, who would have bound themselves by their engagement; whilst, in the present instance, there are no individuals who are bound, or who can be bound.

767. Then you do contemplate that the government agent should be the agent of individual parties, and have the power of entering into contracts in the names of those parties, by which they should be bound?—It is quite possible, on further investigation of the subject, that that might be found most advantageous; but, in the meantime, I see no difficulty in carrying the scheme into effect even without that arrangement. The governor would require 500 labourers, and he would pledge the faith of the colony that, on the arrival of the 500 labourers, they would be received on the terms specified; and he would take care, before he did that, to have everything so safely and well established in the island of Trinidad, that there would be parties existing there who would be bound to him to carry the engagement into effect.

768. But, according to that arrangement, the negroes emigrating from the coast of Africa would be bound to give their services without knowing to whom they were bound to give them, and would be at the disposal of the governor when they arrived, without consulting their inclinations?—Certainly; that would be the case in any plan of immigration, but the governor would have the power of selection, and he might allow the immigrant to say, "I will go with this gentleman,

man, I like the look of him." That is a general practice; they can have no very strong or considerate grounds for a preference, further than they like the face of a certain person; they say, "I think that gentleman looks as if he would be a good-natured master."

769. Suppose that there happened to be one master who looked so particularly good-natured that they all wished to go to him, how would you distribute them in such a case?—His name would be in the governor's list only for a certain number; and if any gentleman's face appeared so extremely objectionable that the parties who might fall to his lot determined decidedly that they would not serve him, I am satisfied, that in the present state of affairs in Trinidad, there would be no difficulty in the governor finding an employer likely to suit them, so that there would be no difficulty in finding places for them all under any circumstances.

770. Mr. *Smith.*] You propose that there should be one government agent for all the colonies; how is that government agent to select immigrants for the different colonies?—That principle must be regulated by Government; because we say in Trinidad that the basis of the selection should be, that those who offered the highest wages should be entitled to the preference. Now that would be our wish, and, in fact, to our interest; but it might not be for the advantage or interest of the colonies generally; so that I think the principle of selection should be determined by Government, under certain rules to be established.

771. Lord *Stanley.*] Do not you conceive that that would be throwing upon the government agent, and upon the Government under whom he acted, a very invidious task, to select and give the preference to particular colonies over certain others, all of them being equally desirous of obtaining emigrants; do not you think that to direct the stream of emigration away from one colony into another would give rise to great dissatisfaction on the part of some of the colonies?—No doubt it might; but this is no easy task to accomplish; and as the nation has begun it, the nation must carry it through. The Government must incur great labour and great responsibility; for it will not do to pass an Act to abolish slavery, and then to allow things to take care of themselves. The plan would no doubt give a great deal of trouble in its completion, but I am satisfied that in the result it would be the most beneficial. As to the dissatisfaction created, that would depend upon the mode in which it was conducted; but arrangements might be so made that all the colonies would be satisfied.

772. Mr. *Smith.*] Are not you aware that at the present moment there exists the greatest jealousy between the different colonies as to immigrants?—I think most of the colonies are in want of immigrants, and if they all receive them, there will be, I think, no jealousy; but if some receive a great many, and others requiring them receive none, I think they will be dissatisfied.

773. Viscount *Howick.*] Would it not create great dissatisfaction in Africa, if the governor were to distribute the negroes, according to his discretion, among the different colonies?—I would not interfere with their free agency. If an emigrant from Africa were to be asked, "Do you want to go to this island at a low rate of wages, or to go to Trinidad at a higher," and he were to say, "I want to go to this for a less rate of wages," I should permit him the option of going where he pleased.

774. As the party communicating with the negroes in Africa would, of course, have an influence over them, if you preserved that free agency, and did not distribute the negroes according to a certain rule, would there not be great suspicions in the different colonies of his not acting with impartiality?—My opinion is that they ought to be distributed according to a fair rule; but if, under that rule, an excepted case should occur, by which a man should prefer going to a particular island, though it might not be in accordance with the rule, I should recommend not to interfere with his personal will, but to let him go if he pleases. Then, with regard to the power of selecting, there is no doubt that the gentleman employed must be of such standing, character, and ability, as to command generally the confidence of all the colonies, or so great an undertaking could not be accomplished.

775. In point of fact, are not the colonies, at the present moment, rivals with each other for immigrants; and if a single agent were appointed, would he not be the agent of parties having opposite interests?—Allow me to say, that the course of examination seems to have brought me into the position of having recommended a government agent, as if I had fully and well considered the

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whole subject. I merely recommended the government agent as preferential to the present course pursued, in which several agents are employed by different colonies, all at a great expense, all with a personal interest in favour of one colony, and running a race of competition against each other.

776. Practically, is it not by that competition that the colonies are most likely to obtain immigrants?—No; if it were done by the Government, and the wants of the different colonies fairly communicated to Government, I think that it would be better and more safely and advantageously done, than by allowing several agents to be bidding one against the other, and endeavouring to influence the negroes to go to different colonies with which they must be unacquainted.

777. Mr. *Hawes.*] You prefer making the contracts in Sierra Leone, or whatever other place may be the source of the emigration?—Whatever may be the source of the emigration, I consider it to be most advantageous to the party emigrating that there should be a previous contract for twelve months between him and his future employer, and that he should not be sent to the colony, as at present, without any contract at all, which leads to all the disastrous consequences which have ensued, as will appear from the evidence taken in Trinidad.

778. How is that making of individual contracts consistent with the general distribution of immigrants when they arrive in the West Indies?—It would be entirely inconsistent with it: but I consider that binding them for 12 months to a particular individual and to a particular spot, would be more advantageous to them than being left perfectly at liberty, as they are now, to follow their own inclinations. I stated that, before they were sent from abroad, the proprietors in the island would make their engagements with the governor for the labourers they required; consequently, on their arrival in the island, they would be distributed among those applicants, and not generally amongst the inhabitants.

779. Mr. *Howard.*] If a planter had an estate which was of an unhealthy character, would you enable him to retain the services of the negro for the time that you propose?—The governor would have a discretion in those matters; and if there was anything extremely objectionable, either in the character of the applicant himself, or in the nature or situation of his estate, of course he would be guided by those circumstances on the first instance.

780. It would be a very invidious task for the governor to say that a planter was not of good character, or that a plantation was not healthy, or that there was not sufficient means to give those persons a religious education?—There might be many difficulties, and I am not prepared to go into the whole of them; I can only say that a government agent would, I think, be more advantageous than individual agents; but if, on a further consideration of the subject, it should be found not to be the case, of course other and better arrangements could be made.

781. Lord *Stanley.*] What number of immigrants have arrived in Trinidad, in the course of the last two years?—The number in the statistical returns, containing only those whose passages were paid up to the period when the Trinidad evidence was taken, to June 30th, 1841, is 3,897; but the agent for emigration, who handed in that return to the Committee, stated that he was satisfied that a much larger number had arrived, and that in his estimation the whole might be considered to be 8,000. The next question put to him was to ascertain how far his means of judging were correct; and it appears that he judged only from what he knew at Port of Spain, and that it was probable that many had been landed in other parts, which would increase the number.

782. That is up to last June; have any arrived since that time?—I should think the immigration has been going on at the rate of 250 per month, if not more, from that period to the present.

783. Then you would estimate that the annual immigration is 3,000 a year?—Yes.

784. You are speaking now of labourers of all descriptions?—Yes.

785. The character of your immigration is such that a considerable portion of them are able-bodied adult males?—Yes.

786. What is the rate of wages?—The rate of wages, according to the last account, was half a dollar for the task at weeding.

787. Do you consider that that rate is so high as to make it impossible to carry on cultivation at a profit, unless it be reduced?—No, I do not; I think that the inhabitants of Trinidad could pay even that rate of wages if there was

continuous

continuous labour, if the labourers were made to work actively and steadily as in Europe, and also supposing that the value of sugar is to continue as high as it is at the present period; but I believe my opinions may be considered by some to be exaggerated in regard to the capabilities of Trinidad.

788. What number of immigrants would you consider it necessary to import annually for the purpose of making any visible impression upon the amount of wages?—There is great difficulty in answering that; it is entirely a novel question, a novel experiment; but seeing that with an importation of above 8,000, probably now 10,000, so far from wages having fallen, that up to November last year they had increased, when from the mere necessity of the case, (from the suddenly reduced value of sugar, the proprietors made a struggle to reduce them, in which they have been only partially successful), I should say that a very considerable number would still be required to enable wages to be reduced in Trinidad.

789. What do you calculate the average expense per head of the conveyance of immigrants from the coast of Africa?—The colony now allows 35 dollars per head for the passages of adults, and no difficulty was found in inducing vessels to go to Sierra Leone for them; the great difficulty is now that the vessels insist upon a guarantee for a full complement, for several have gone there lately and have returned empty.

790. Viscount *Howick*.] What is the average length of voyage from Trinidad to Sierra Leone?—It is distinctly stated by Mr. Hamilton, who is an old purser in the navy, that it is 30 days.

791. That is coming back?—Yes; from Sierra Leone, the voyage will never be direct, to and from; it will be by vessels proceeding from England, and touching at Sierra Leone.

792. Lord *Stanley*.] Have you calculated what will be the necessary annual expenditure to be laid out in immigration, for the purpose of so reducing the wages as to enable the cultivation to be carried on at a profit?—No, I have not, but I consider that a scheme of this kind, which is so novel, must be done gradually, and that our way must be cautiously felt as we go on. I think I could say safely, that no harm could possibly be done by importing to the extent of 5,000 annually, and we must judge from the result whether it will be necessary to increase or decrease the numbers. I should be afraid of the responsibility of recommending the introduction of more at the present moment from the coast.

793. Supposing the rate of wages not to be increased beyond that at which it is now, and supposing there to be no withdrawal of labour from the labour market, in your judgment the cultivation of the colony can be carried on at a profit?—I think it can, provided you can establish good and efficient labour in the colony; because we have struggled on, and are not altogether ruined at the present moment, though our losses are very great, with the present rate of wages and with the most inefficient labour possible; so that I firmly believe that, if we had good and steady continuous labour in the island of Trinidad, we could afford even to pay the present rate of wages.

794. Do you find that the labourers are accumulating money in Trinidad?—They are making a great deal of money; but it is only by a few characters in all communities that money is accumulated. They spend it in the most extravagant way, which I consider is the great cause of their present demoralisation.

795. Supposing they spend their money as fast as they obtain it, there is no withdrawal from the market of labour; they are obliged to give their labour in order to meet the expenses which they incur?—No doubt of it.

796. With respect to those persons who have accumulated money, do you find that they withdraw from labour altogether?—Those who accumulate do.

797. Do those who have accumulated money dispose of it in the purchase of freehold property?—They dispose of it in the purchase of houses and lands, and engaging in little shops, and so forth; it is difficult to say in detail how they dispose of it.

798. Is the tendency to collect in the towns, rather than to live in the country districts?—There is a very great tendency to collect in towns; we have had no census taken lately, but the general opinion is, that the towns have increased one third, or more, since emancipation.

799. There is a very large proportion of the land in Trinidad uncultivated and waste; do you find that the negroes are in the habit of withdrawing to any

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distance from the civilised and cultivated parts and squatting in the wilder parts of the country?—Not in the slightest degree.

800. Whether possessed of property or not, they keep within range of the cultivated land, and there is no tendency to extend themselves over the island generally?—They prefer being as near the settled population as they can be.

801. In those cases in which they have become possessed of lands themselves, in what way do they cultivate them?—Very little indeed. I know of none who have bought a large extent of ground; in general they seem to buy small allotments, for the mere purpose of building a house on, and having some independent location for themselves; but it appears distinctly that they do not cultivate to any extent, for provisions are scarcer now in the colony than they were before, when our labouring population was much smaller.

802. In what manner then do they supply themselves with provisions?—By purchase.

803. That must be upon the wages of labour?—Yes.

804. Then, according to the present state of the labouring population in Trinidad, there is every inducement to them to continue to give labour, and they do continue to give labour, for the purpose of supplying themselves with the necessaries of life?—It is the case, and if we had a sufficient number on those terms, we might get on satisfactorily.

805. Mr. *Smith.*] You said that the person who had accumulated capital retired from labour?—No, he does not retire from all labour; he has capital, and he labours partially, just as suits his convenience.

806. Mr. *Hawes.*] Have the prices of provisions risen?—The prices of provisions have risen partially; such is the nature of the evidence which I received in Trinidad.

807. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand, from what you have stated, that those who squat and appropriate to themselves districts of land, do not cultivate those plots?—Very little indeed.

808. They merely take them as domiciles?—They sometimes cultivate a garden, but, as I was informed, they consume what they raise themselves; they are too independent to sell it in the market; but the fact is, that the island cultivation of provisions, such as the negroes carried on formerly, is reduced to such an insufficient amount, that the trade with the Spanish Main, in those articles, has doubled or trebled in consequence of the demand, so that the island is now fed by plantains, poultry, pigs, and other provisions brought from the Spanish continent, to a great degree.

809. Do you find that the immigrants to whom you have alluded as having arrived in Trinidad receive the same wages as the negroes who have been in the island before?—Precisely.

810. Do you anticipate that in the event of your receiving an adequate amount of immigration, the rate of wages will be lower?—I have no doubt that that must be the effect.

811. It is in that mode that you expect to arrive at the continuous labour which you require?—The wages must fall till it creates a competition among labourers.

812. Mr. *Stuart.*] But you can form no idea of the amount of annual immigration which is necessary to produce that result?—I should be very much afraid of giving any positive opinion on a subject which depends so much upon a variety of other circumstances. If Government will make such regulations as will be necessary, a smaller amount will answer; but if the additional population when introduced, are to be allowed, as they are at the present moment, to wander about throughout the island, without question or control, it will take a greater number; but with proper regulations and restrictions, a smaller number will suffice.

813. What is the nature of the regulations and restrictions which you contemplate?—I consider, in the first instance, that the commandants of quarters, who were formerly placed over each quarter or district of the island, as executive officers under the governor, should be re-appointed. They existed up to the period of emancipation, and then their services were dispensed with. I am not aware that any reason was ever given for the abrogation of the office.

814. Mr. *Hawes.*] Will you state what their duties were?—Their principal duties, and I will only state the duties now that appertain to the present subject, were to know the whole of the labouring free population residing in their quarter;

quarter; consequently no labourer could enter therein to settle before presenting himself to the commandant, giving his name, and stating from whence he came; having done which, he was at liberty to reside there. The commandant kept a list, and knew every individual residing in the quarter. I consider that would be a wholesome check, without interfering with the liberty of the labourer, if he were obliged at the present moment, on quitting one quarter and going to another, to present himself to the commandant, state his name and whence he came. That would enable the commandant of the quarter in which he entered to communicate with the commandant from whence he came, and ascertain his general character and habits previously.

815. Lord *Stanley*.] Do you contemplate that the commandant of the quarter to which he should come should have the power of giving him permission to come and reside in the quarter, or of refusing him permission?—No, he would be allowed to enter. But if the commandant found that he was a dangerous character, it would be his duty to communicate with the governor, and to be governed by his instructions.

816. What instructions do you contemplate that the governor would give?—If the man was found to be a dangerous character, the governor would take such steps as he thought necessary, of which he would be able to judge, according to the circumstances of the case.

817. You recommend the commandant of the quarter to be re-appointed, for the purpose of securing such continuous labour as to enable the importation of a smaller number to suffice for the purposes of the cultivation. Supposing persons not to be dangerous characters, but merely moving about from one district to another, and residing for a short time in each, do you contemplate that there should be a power vested in the commandant of the quarter to prohibit or to permit the removal of those persons from one district to another?—I consider that a number of small regulations combined together will give a more settled habit to the labourers of Trinidad, and that they will never furnish continuous labour till they acquire those settled habits; and I consider that this is one amongst other regulations which would be useful. They come into a quarter; they stay there for a night; and they are probably off again the next morning. I am satisfied that the course of justice is defeated in consequence; you cannot find out where a debtor or a culprit is, or where he is to be found.

818. Do not you think that a better security for those settled habits than this multiplication of restrictions would be to give the negro an interest in the soil?—No doubt, if you could give him such an interest in the soil as to induce him to remain steadily in one place, it would be the best mode of effecting that object.

819. Do you not think that leases for terms of years would have the effect of attaching the negro to the soil, and permanently keeping him to the same district?—I do not think, in the present state of the labouring population, it would be practicable for any such leases to be made with the generality of the labourers in it.

820. Will you have the goodness to state your reason for saying that in your opinion it is impossible?—They have no means. You cannot lease your property to a man who is to pay a certain rent annually, unless he has the means at least of maintaining himself. A great many other difficulties suggest themselves. They are not in that advanced state of civilisation to take leases of property; they are ready to work out as day labourers, but I really know very few that would be disposed to take leases; if they entered into a lease they must sign some paper, and I believe 99 out of 100 if you asked them to sign a paper would be alarmed at the request; I know a case in which a party had to receive a sum of money for work done upon an estate, and he remained out of receipt of the money for three or four weeks from sheer apprehension of signing the receipt.

821. Do you find that there is any difficulty upon their part in entering into contracts for the purchase of property?—No.

822. Why then do you think that there should be more difficulty in inducing them to enter into contracts for a lease of land for an annual sum than to pay a a fixed sum for the permanent possession of it?—Because the parties who buy property are all of a superior description of negroes, those who have made money, and know how to keep it; and they are generally a different class of persons from the ordinary labourers in the colony.

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823. Why should not that class of persons enter into arrangements for the cultivation of land upon their own account?—I thought the question referred to a general mode of proceeding amongst the labourers. Certainly there are some individuals who might lease land, individuals of the same description as now purchase it; but generally speaking, the practice in the present state of the labouring population in Trinidad could not be adopted to the extent of suppressing their habits of vagrancy.

824. Mr. *Hawes.*] Generally speaking, you have stated that the proprietors of land object to selling land to the labourers?—No; as a principle, I believe that they consider that it would be much better if no land were to be sold to the labourers, but as a fact, they are selling land to the labourers every day.

825. With regard to contracts for labour in Trinidad, are they never written?—Never written; I think you will find that the answer to that question by the stipendiary magistrates, on reference to the returns in the Blue-book, is invariably "nil."

826. What objection would there be to having written contracts similar to those which do exist in other islands?—There would be no objection on the part of the employers; we are very anxious to introduce them, but the labourers invariably refuse; and, as I before stated, I am under the impression that it arises a great deal from the efforts made to prevent their adhering to the contracts they have made out of the island.

827. Efforts made by whom?—By the colonial officers, by the harbour-master, and immigration agent, who go on board the vessel the moment she arrives, and inquire if any parties have previously entered into contracts, and without reference to the value of the contract, whether it be good or bad for them, they tell them at once that it is not binding in the colony.

828. Mr. *Howard.*] Do you see any objection to the practice which has been adopted in St. Lucia of allowing the negroes to have part of the profit that results from the cultivation of sugar?—In my former examination I was questioned upon the subject. Generally speaking, I do not think it would be practicable to introduce it extensively into the island of Trinidad; further than that, I do not consider that it would be an improved mode of cultivation, and gentlemen in this part of the world, I am sure, would not think it an advantageous change in respect to the system of husbandry now prevailing. Ultimately I do not think the cane cultivation could ever be carried on so efficiently in that mode as to enable us to compete with slavery in other countries.

829. Mr. *Hawes.*] You state that you wish the office of commandant of the quarter to be revived; will you state more specifically the duties that you would impose upon him. You stated that you thought a number of small regulations combined together would have a good effect in repressing the roving disposition of the negroes; what are the duties which you would impose upon the commandant of the quarter?—At present there is no public officer in any of the rural districts but the stipendiary magistrate; he is the sole existing authority in any of those large districts, and he is entirely unable to attend to the duties which now devolve upon him as stipendiary magistrate. Another officer, therefore, requires to be appointed.

830. But what duties would you specifically charge this officer with, and what are the regulations which you point at when you state that a number of them combined would repress the roving disposition of the negro?—I refer to the duties which formerly devolved upon the commandant of the quarter, and which are now unfulfilled from the want of such an officer.

831. Which you would propose to be revived?—Yes, for the purpose of having those duties performed, and for the carrying on of other duties which the governor might hereafter think necessary. He had, as I stated, the surveillance of all the free labourers that came into the quarter. It was necessary that they should present themselves before him and give in their names, and he consequently knew who they were, where they were, and whence they were, and that I consider a very necessary duty.

832. With the mere surveillance, was there no other power conferred upon him; had he not the power to remove them?—Not individually without reference to the governor; I do not think he had any power of that description, and I am sure I have no recollection of its having been exercised.

833. But supposing you are not yourself acquainted with the duties of this officer, can you refer the Committee to any sources of information on the subject?—There

—There must be in the Colonial-office some information as to the powers of the commandant. There was an ordinance regulating them.

834. Had he any power over any other labourers than the slave labourers?—The power that I allude to was specifically over the free labourers, in superintending their conduct; and in recommending the re-appointment of the commandant, I do not mean to recommend that he should be re-appointed precisely with all the powers that he possessed before, if, upon consideration, any of those powers should be found objectionable; but such an officer is, I think, required at the present moment in the colony.

835. *Chairman.*] I understand you to express the opinion that some laws for the regulation of labour are indispensable, and you have merely named this commandant as one means, in your opinion, of carrying such laws into effect?—I have.

836. Mr. *Hawes.*] You have stated that you wish to invest him with certain powers; will you state the powers which you wish to give him?—I wish to have some executive authority established in each quarter to carry the regulations which may be found necessary hereafter into execution; but I am not prepared to state the whole of them; there is one power which the executive officer should possess, namely, that of enregistering all the labourers in his particular district; which for the purposes of justice alone is required. Another very essential power that the commandant possessed was in regulating a particular branch of our agriculture, viz. the applying fire for the purpose of clearing the land previously to cultivation; it is the only economical mode of doing it in a variety of instances, by burning off the whole of the bush upon the ground.

837. *Chairman.*] That was done under restrictions imposed by him?—No man dared put fire to any piece of land without asking the permission of the commandant so to do, who immediately ascertained what was the position of that land, and how far it might be endangering the surrounding property.

838. Had that officer any military rank or duties?—It was not a matter of necessity, but in general he was a commanding officer in the militia of his district.

839. In point of fact, all the duties to which you have been adverting are civil duties?—They are.

840. He acted as a justice of the peace?—Yes; that is the duty which the stipendiary magistrate now performs, and which he should retain. I do not recommend that the commandant should have judicial powers given to him again.

841. Mr. *Barclay.*] What would be the value of land in Trinidad in freedom, as compared with the value of land in slavery?—Land, as the subject of sale, has been rarely sold in Trinidad by itself.

842. Can you state what would be the difference of value of any plantation sold in freedom and sold in slavery?—No, I cannot, for I do not think that the sales are sufficient in number to establish any precedent.

843. Has the value of land fallen or not since freedom?—I think it is very difficult to decide, the sales have been so few, and under peculiar circumstances.

844. Mr. *Hawes.*] Then, in point of fact, it is mere opinion?—Yes.

845. Mr. *Barclay.*] You have mentioned that some of the free labourers purchased small quantities of land; at what rate have they purchased such land?—At a very high rate.

846. You mentioned that several vessels had been sent to Sierra Leone for emigrants, and that they had come back almost empty; did that disappointment arise from the circumstance of those who first went being disappointed in the engagements made with them not being kept?—I only know what passed by information I received from Trinidad; but I am satisfied that it did not arise from the circumstance of any disappointment, because the fall of wages in the island I believe was not known in Africa when they refused to come.

847. Have any of the African immigrants returned to Africa?—By the last accounts from the island, we understand that eight or nine of the Sierra Leone immigrants have been induced to return to Sierra Leone, for the purpose of fully explaining to their countrymen there the actual state of affairs in Trinidad; but none have returned from the island to Africa on account of disappointment.

848. Then you expect, in consequence, a further supply of labour from Sierra Leone?—That will depend very much upon the authorities in Sierra Leone.

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The emigration suddenly stopped at Sierra Leone, from some particular causes; and if those causes should continue, there will be no emigration from thence.

849. *Chairman.*] I understand you to have expressed the opinion, that some laws for the regulation of labour are quite as essential as an increase in the supply of labour?—Not quite as essential; but they will be a necessary concomitant. If immigration is carried on under due and proper regulations, which I do not pretend myself at present to define; but I know that regulations will be required, and I think steady and continuous labour will be attained much sooner and easier in consequence than if no regulations are adopted.

850. You do not think that immigration alone would produce the effect, without laws for the regulation of labour?—I do not, judging from the opinion given by the Trinidad planters, that no amount of immigration will secure the necessary labour in the boiling-house, unless contracts for continuous labour are established as one regulation.

851. Have you had much immigration of Europeans?—Not many.

852. Do you know of any Europeans who have immigrated to Trinidad who are employed in field labour?—Generally speaking, the European immigrants have not been employed in the field labour of sugar estates in Trinidad; they have been employed on coffee and cocoa estates.

853. Does the climate forbid their being so employed?—I think so. The physician of the hospital, into which a number of them were introduced when a great mortality occurred, was of opinion, that though the climate was not unfavourable to them, that their habits of drinking, which nothing could cure or correct them of, rendered it doubtful whether they could retain their health.

854. Mr. *Hawes.*] What has been the fate of the European immigrants?—I believe a great number are dead. Allow me to explain, at the same time, that those European immigrants were never introduced at the desire of the colony; they were intended specially to be excluded by the Immigration Act, in which no place in Europe is named, and no sum of money allowed for the passages of any but immigrants of African descent; but we could not prevent persons who came as free agents from entering the colony.

855. *Chairman.*] Have the results, with reference to those Europeans who have immigrated into Trinidad been such as to encourage the immigration of Europeans?—Quite the reverse; no person in Trinidad would wish Europeans generally to be introduced. They can work in sheltered situations, in-doors and under cover.

856. Mr. *Hawes.*] Did the authorities at Trinidad introduce none of the Europeans?—None.

857. None came by their invitation?—None.

858. Or the invitation of the planters?—That I am not aware of; I rather suspect that it was by invitation of planters who had connexions with ship-owners in Havre that they were introduced.

859. Has this large influx of labourers tended to diminish the rate of wages?—It has not in any degree; it is probable that wages might have been higher if they had not been introduced, but wages have been continually rising until June last, in the face of that immigration.

860. Mr. *Stuart.*] Is that to be attributed at all to the number of the people who have settled and given up labour?—It is attributable particularly to that cause; either the surveyor-general or some other public officer states in the Trinidad evidence his opinion, for it is mere matter of opinion, that the number of persons settling on little independent locations is equal to the number of immigrants arriving.

861. Mr. *Hawes.*] What was the number of efficient working slaves at the time of emancipation in Trinidad?—I have a very bad recollection of those statistics; but it is to be found in the population returns: I think, in round numbers, about 20,000.

862. Assuming that to be the number, what proportion do you think have retired from field-labour and other labour on the estates, generally?—The general opinion of the inhabitants is that at least one-third, in round numbers, have retired; and the opinion of the surveyor-general is, that they retired as fast as others came in; and we find, from returns of the immigration agent, that some 8,000 or 10,000 had come in; so that, if the surveyor-general is correct in his opinion, 8,000 or 10,000 persons had retired from field-labour; that is, partially, for many of the people who retire still continue to labour occasionally.

863. Mr. *Barclay.*] Are the immigrants principally from other West India islands?—Some came from the United States of America.

864. But the larger number from the West India islands?—Decidedly the larger number.

865. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is there any calculation of the average amount of labour required to raise a ton of sugar?—I have no doubt there is; but I am no practical planter myself, and cannot reply.

866. These practical questions relating to the economy and the produce of plantations you would not be able to reply to?—I am not competent to reply to them in all cases, not being a practical planter; but having made many inquiries relating to this subject, I have received a good deal of information, so that some of them I can reply to from the information of others, but from no practical knowledge of my own. The evidence of Mr. Darling, taken before the Committee in Trinidad, questions 271 to 275, inclusive, will give the information required much better than I can afford it myself.

867. Can you state whether the men employed in the boiling-house for the manufacture of sugar receive a higher rate of wages than those engaged in the field in Trinidad?—No; I should say that they received less wages, because in the field it is task-work, and an industrious active man can do two or three tasks a day, and by that means make more money than a labourer in the boiling-house, who is engaged and paid by the day only.

868. Can you state how many men are usually employed in the boiling-house, and how many hours they labour daily?—I cannot state the number of men, because that depends very much upon the extent of the establishment; but they labour generally from seven o'clock in the morning till sunset, and from all the information I could obtain, and from all the complaints that were made to me, I find they cannot be induced to turn out sooner, or work later.

869. Do you work your sugar-mills by steam, or by water, or by cattle?—Very few by water; I believe there are only three or four water-mills in the island: the majority of them by cattle; a large number of them now by steam.

870. None by wind?—None by wind. The cultivation, for the most part, in Trinidad is situated on the lee side of the island, where there is no steady breeze on which you can depend to move the windmills.

871. Do you feed your sugar-mills by hand or by steam?—Generally by hand.

872. Then you have not in any way improved the cultivation of sugar or the processes since the period of slavery?—I doubt whether a cane-carrier would be an improvement. It was first adopted in Demerara, where the canes are brought to the mill by canal; consequently, there is a short distance from the mill to the canal; and then there is some considerable elevation. All which creates a great deal more labour than in Trinidad, where the cart comes and throws the canes immediately at the foot of the mill; so that would not be so profitable and economical a measure in Trinidad as in Demerara.

873. Therefore those more economical processes have not yet been adopted by you, in the belief that they would not be advantageous in Trinidad?—I believe the inhabitants of Trinidad are very anxious to adopt all the economical processes they can, but the Committee will observe that it is not always so easy to adopt even that little improvement. You may have a steam-engine already established, of a certain power, which is just sufficient to enable you to grind the canes that the coppers will boil off. If you then set up extra machinery which is to detract from its power, the whole will fail; so that to feed the mill by a cane-carrier would require you to change the engine. Many may consider it advantageous, but are deterred from doing it by the expense.

874. Has any material change taken place, either in the making of sugar, or in the cultivation of sugar estates, since the period of slavery?—I may say safely, decidedly none; and that question is distinctly replied to by a planter, in the Trinidad evidence, who gave as his reason for it, that it was impossible to introduce any improvement, so long as you could not compel or induce the labourers to do their work continuously; it is at question 625.

875. Can you give the Committee any account of the classification of labourers; how many are employed in feeding the mill, in the manufacture of sugar, and in other ways?—I cannot, correctly.

876. Mr. *Barclay.*] Has the plough been introduced?—The inhabitants are attempting to introduce the plough, but it cannot be used so advantageously in

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Trinidad as in many of the other islands, on account of the nature of the soil, and seasons.

877. Is the soil rocky, or what is the difficulty with respect to the soil?—The soil is deep and argillaceous, so that it is quite impossible to use the plough but in moderately dry weather, and the seasons are in general very wet.

878. Mr. *Stuart.*] The soil is so wet that you do not require manure?—The soil, when new, is so rich that you do not require manure; but there is no doubt that it could be advantageously employed in a great variety of instances, and is so applied.

879. It is the habit to use manure in Trinidad, as in the other islands?—In the old estates they are in the habit of using manure on the lands which have been most cultivated, but they do not value it as they do in the old islands, and a great portion of manure is lost and wasted.

880. *Chairman.*] Is machinery extensively in use in Trinidad?—Machinery, such as steam-engines and steam-mills, are very extensively in use, and I believe, generally, that all the machinery that has been found advantageous in other colonies, and which the capital of the proprietors in Trinidad enabled them to purchase, is made use of; but in many instances their means were by no means equal to their inclinations. Estates are, in general, small in Trinidad.

881. Supposing the capital to be increased, do you think that the amount of machinery used might be advantageously increased?—No; I think at the present moment the amount of capital is much too great in proportion to the population. If you introduced a larger population there is no doubt a larger capital might be employed.

882. Do you think that the quantity of cane land on an estate might be reduced, so as to produce an equal crop by increased labour and skill?—I have no doubt that by better labour upon the cane land, in the island of Trinidad, the amount of produce could be doubled.

883. Have you ever considered whether it is practicable to reduce any of the expenses at present incurred in the cultivation of sugar?—I do not think at the present moment, in a general way, that it is practicable to reduce any of the expenses.

884. Mr. *Hawes.*] You state that the task, for which you pay nearly double in the shape of wages now, is the same as that exacted from the slave previously to emancipation?—Not exactly; the habit of working by task was introduced under the protectors at the period of slavery; but I believe from the same cause that the price of the task has been rising every day since emancipation; the amount of the task has been in some degree reduced. I think, if there is any material difference, it is less now than it was under apprenticeship.

885. Was there not some tariff or scale of labour drawn up by the protectors of slaves?—There was a tariff published under the immediate direction of the Government, and it is to be found in some of the Parliamentary papers.

886. Could you point it out, so that the Committee might obtain it on their minutes?—No, but I think it could not be difficult to procure it.

887. You state that the Negro in Trinidad could perform two tasks in the day with ease?—So I understand, and indeed know by the returns of labour that have been given to me.

888. You know nothing of it personally?—I never stood by a man to see him perform the work, but I feel sure of it from the information I have received.

889. Do you mean to say that that is within the power of the average labourer or not?—I think it is within the power of all but those who are weak and infirm, because I have known it done repeatedly by women; but there are many who do not perform more than a task in the day, and who allege that they cannot perform more; but I know that women can perform it; consequently, I consider that all the able-bodied population can do the same.

890. *Chairman.*] With regard to the population of Trinidad, the extent of the colony and the quantity in cultivation, do you concur in the answers given upon this subject by Mr. Sorsano before the committee in Trinidad to question 531 and 564?—With regard to question 531, there can be no doubt upon the subject. It is the best official record that we have in the island of Trinidad; I consequently believe it to be a true statistical return; and the population return at question 564 I believe to be perfectly correct.

891. What are the means which would prevent any part of the uncultivated lands

lands being taken possession of by trespassers, in the manner you have described in the former part of your evidence?—By establishing a law to prevent parties from taking possession of the land, and then taking care that the law should be carried into execution. The island is suffering at the present moment from there being no efficient law for that purpose. An Ordinance was passed here for the purpose of preventing unauthorized intruding on public lands, but to complete it forms and rules were directed to be added to it in the colony of Trinidad, and those forms and rules have been found so defective, from the difficulty of carrying them into execution, that the law has been practically never carried into execution; so that for any useful purpose, we have no law in Trinidad to prevent squatting, at present.

892. You think that the law requires revision?—I do, and that it could be easily made effective.

893. Mr. *Hawes.*] Are there not very stringent powers possessed by the justices of peace under the Ordinance in question?—No objections are made to the Ordinance, as passed in the Privy Council here; it is considered to be a good and efficient Ordinance.

894. Can you inform the Committee whether, under the provisions of this Order in Council, any parties have been expelled from the unauthorized possession of Crown lands?—I believe four or five persons have been expelled; but probably there would have been great difficulty in doing it, if they had resisted. They were told to walk off; and, as they knew they were unauthorized intruders, they did walk off.

895. Have not several parties been expelled and fined; if you refer to page 114, do you not find that that is the case?—There are four cases. They appear to have been threatened with imprisonment for 14 days. None suffered any penalty; they were told that they had intruded upon the land, and they were ordered to retire, and they obeyed the order.

896. *Chairman.*] Had they not gone off the land, they would have been imprisoned by virtue of those sentences?—In the evidence, which I beg particularly to refer the Committee to as being very valuable, coming from one of the ablest lawyers in the island of Trinidad, he states, that if an attempt be made to carry a case through the court, under the regulations and forms prescribed, the difficulties would be found so great as to deter any private individual from coming forward to inform against offenders. But in these cases the business was easily and successfully effected; the parties were ordered to leave the land, and they left it immediately.

897. Had they not so left it in virtue of those sentences they would have been imprisoned?—The case would then have come to trial, and it must have been carried on entirely under the forms and regulations prescribed; it is very possible that the first offender might have been ejected; but such would have been the difficulty in doing it, that an intelligent lawyer in Trinidad states that private prosecutors would not be disposed to repeat it; they would not incur the trouble and expense.

898. Then do I understand you to mean that those words which form part of every one of those sentences: "In default thereof to be imprisoned in the royal gaol of Port of Spain for the space of 14 days," are of no effect?—If I am to rely upon the opinion given by Mr. Knox, it could only have been carried into effect with great trouble and difficulty.

899. How do you account then for this standing in the returns as part of the sentence passed in this court?—It stands in this return because it occurred: the parties were ordered to leave the land, and at the same time told by the magistrate that if they did not quit they would be imprisoned 14 days; if the parties had resisted, I do not believe, on the information stated by Mr. Knox, that the magistrate could easily have carried it into effect; he could not have done it but by going through all the proceedings of the law, and the regulations prescribed, which would have been so difficult, and so onerous upon the parties who brought the case into court, that they never would have brought in another again.

900. Mr. *Hawes.*] But is it not a summary jurisdiction?—It does not appear to be summary. I beg to refer to the evidence of Mr. Knox directly upon that subject, in page 95, answer 574; he there states that "the form of proceeding, instead of being 'summary,' appears to me to require as much time and trouble,

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and nearly as much professional knowledge, as the great majority of civil actions which are instituted in the supreme civil court."

901. But Mr Knox states that that is when proceedings take place under the Order in Council; when the proceedings take place under the authority of the colonial government, by its own officers, they are carried on at the public expense, and he conceives that there is ample power in the island to effect the object? —I understand him to state that under the Order in Council no proceedings are likely to take place before the special justices, from the difficulty in carrying them through; but that, if the colonial government undertook the prosecution at their own expense by their own officers, that all those difficulties might be obviated. Even by that means it would not be summary, but would be effectual.

902. No person can occupy Crown land without purchase, nor in quantities less than 100 acres, of which the upset price is 1 *l.* per acre, is it not?—Those are the directions from the Colonial Office here; but I understand that in the Court of Intendant, which is the Governor's court, the assessor of that court, who is the principal lawyer who directs the proceedings, is under the impression that he can sell 40 acres of land to any individual that applies for it; this I have been told; I cannot personally vouch for its correctness.

903. *Chairman.*] Can you state to the Committee the revenue of the colony? —I have before me a return which I will put in; it is a table signed by the colonial treasurer in Trinidad, received from him officially, containing a comparative statement of the colonial revenue for each year from 1832 to 1840, both inclusive; and it states specifically all the sources from which the revenue is derived.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:*]

TRINIDAD.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the COLONIAL REVENUE for each Year, from 1832 to 1840, both inclusive.

BRANCHES OF REVENUE.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Duties on imports - -	4,096	4,620	4,972	5,355	7,823	10,175	8,565	8,521	11,443
Duties on exports - -	9,068	11,101	12,823	12,053	16,470	14,536	14,715	14,819	15,189
Duties on wines and spirits	461	886	882	637	2,149	2,673	1,505	961	2,430
Transient tax - - -	2	45	1	nil.	16	nil.	1	nil.	nil.
Foreign duties from the collector of customs.	1,837	2,944	3,193	2,783	5,024	8,991	9,178	17,430	19,504
Tonnage dues - - -	957	947	1,795	2,995	3,229	3,663	3,256	3,612	4,120
Wharf dues - - -	32	71	45	87	93	180	155	189	183
Slave tax - - -	9,877	5,142	5,282	1,940	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Idem—Arrears - -	463	269	3	nil.	6,698	51	nil.	nil.	nil.
Apprentice tax - -	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	2,496	2,122	1,403	nil.	nil.
Idem—Arrears - -	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	98	nil.	nil.
House tax - - -	2,400	1,052	1,032	1,235	1,396	1,405	1,440	1,506	1,881
Idem—Arrears - -	142	13	103	499	2,498	123	7	1,179	614
Quit-rents and sale of Crown lands.	137	233	743	525	271	55	22	1,678	2,698
Judicial fines - - -	13	60	5	82	249	225	415	607	5,270
Fees of public offices -	1,483	4,304	5,896	4,290	5,104	3,860	3,418	4,126	
Spirit licences, Port Spain	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	2,744	2,708	2,708
Idem—Rural districts -	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	116	1,242	1,625
3½ per cent. duties on imports and exports collected at San Fernando.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil,	189	nil.	379
Miscellaneous - - -	217	1,017	1,066	632	405	289	1,524	64	746
£. sterling,	31,185	32,704	37,841	38,813	53,951	48,349	48,750	58,643	68,790

904. Can you state how far the taxes in Trinidad add to the expenses of the sugar cultivation, or to the cost of living of the labourer?—I should say that to the extent of the duties upon all articles, the expenses of both will be increased; at the same time, I must explain that there is no duty upon British cotton and linen goods, which are consumed by the labourers to a great extent; nor is there any duty upon fish, which is also a very large article in their consumption: but,

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but, as I before stated, I do not think that any taxes, at the present moment, can be said to fall upon the labourers, but that they are all paid by the planters and the proprietors, in the shape of extravagant wages.

905. Do you think that they add much to the expense of cultivation?—Precisely to that extent they must add to the expense of cultivation; but I do not consider the amount of taxes now raised in the island of Trinidad, which fall upon articles of consumption, to be immoderate or unnecessary.

906. Do you know whether the population of the colony has increased since the abolition of slavery, by natural increase?—We have had no census of the population for the last three years, consequently we cannot tell whether the population has increased or not; neither if there had been a census could it have been ascertained effectually, unless the native inhabitants had been counted by themselves, as the immigration has been so large.

907. Mr. *Stuart.*] Do you think the difficulty of introducing the freedom Creoles to labour in the island of Trinidad, arises chiefly from the great facility in their obtaining land and settling, or from the wages being so high that they need only work a few hours in the day, or a few days in the week?—Principally, I should say from both causes; they save money from wages being so high, and easily purchase land.

Jovis, 5° *die Maii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Lord Stanley.
Mr. Hawes.	Mr. V. Stuart.
Mr. C. Howard.	Mr. E. Tennent.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Hardin Burnley, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

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908. *Chairman.*] DO you desire to offer any explanation with reference to a portion of the evidence which you gave the committee on Monday last?—I wish to render my answer to question 901 more clear and intelligible. The question seems to suppose, which I did not remark at the time it was put, that Mr. Knox had stated before the Trinidad committee, that proceedings against squatters could be instituted in two modes, either under the provisions of the Order in Council, or under some authority of the colonial government. By reference to that gentleman's evidence it will be seen that he makes no such statement, although there is a slight verbal ambiguity in his answer to question 575, which no doubt led to the misapprehension of his meaning. The fact is, that in that island no proceedings can be instituted against squatters but under the authority and provisions of the Order in Council; and his statement is to the effect that proceedings would be so tedious, troublesome, and expensive, in consequence of the forms and rules of the 30th of March 1839, appended to the Order in Council, that none will be instituted except such as are commenced by express direction of the colonial government, and are carried on by public officers, at the public expense. It is therefore considered necessary by the inhabitants that the rules and forms of proceeding of the 30th of March 1839, should be altered so as to render them more summary and less troublesome and expensive, and that an officer should be appointed as public prosecutor, to watch over the conservation of the Crown lands, and see that the law is carried into effect. I know nothing of the cases of ejectment which appear to have occurred, beyond what is to be found in the magistrates' returns in the Parliamentary papers upon the table; but I observe that the proceedings were all instituted by one gentleman, Mr. Toussaint Rostant, and I am satisfied that if the particulars are inquired into they will not be found to militate against Mr. Knox's opinion. I wish also to add, with respect to the powers of commandants, and the regulations necessary for the well-being of the community, which portion of my examination was abruptly changed on Monday last, by question 841, as to the value of land, that I consider it essential that the

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inhabitants of every district should be responsible for the good order of the public roads, which cannot be effected unless they are bound to furnish a certain number of labourers at a fair fixed rate of wages. At present no labourer will work upon the roads but at an exorbitant price, so that their state is execrable, and frequently impassable, although large sums of money are laid out upon them. This measure cannot be effected unless the inhabitants of each district are enrolled, and induced to become stationary in their habits. At present there is no gradation of ranks in the colony. I cannot see how an African community can be well governed unless there is some classification of ranks, which might be so managed as to operate advantageously with respect to their moral improvement. For instance, assistant courts of appeal, which appear to have worked so advantageously in Barbadoes, might be established, and the individuals appointed to act upon them selected only from the better classes of Negroes who have been steady residents in the district, and possessed of a moderate property qualification; from the same class the militia might be exclusively selected, and a militia is essentially necessary even in time of peace, if only to constitute an efficient police (in case of public disturbance), which at present does not exist; the power of carrying arms would then be an honorary distinction, conferred only upon the best and most intelligent members of the community. These and many other useful regulations which would upon inquiry suggest themselves, could only be carried into effect under an executive officer of the government, established in each of the rural districts. At present the only official to be found in them is the stipendiary magistrate, who is totally unable to discharge effectually the whole of the judicial duties which devolve upon him, and a wild licence prevails amongst the labouring population, who rove about from one end of the island to another, unquestioned as to their motives and intentions. I find in the circular despatch of Lord Glenelg's, of the 6th of November 1837, the following just observations: "The freedom to which I refer must of course, however, be that of men living in civil society, enjoying the franchises and performing the duties of citizens. Their privileges cannot be unconnected with restrictions against the abuse of them; for neither in Great Britain nor in any other part of the civilised world can we point at any class of men who are not subjected to laws, defining, for the common good of society, the obligations of all its members to each other and to the state collectively. To define what those restrictions shall be in the British West Indies is the problem of which a solution must be found at the close of the apprenticeship." The above paragraph contains the essence and principles of all the restrictions which the proprietors in Trinidad require.

909. Have you any further explanation with regard to the last day's evidence that you desire to offer?—None, that I am aware of at present.

910. What, on the whole, do you consider the principal cause of the distress of West India planters?—I consider the principal cause of the distress of the planters in Trinidad to be the want of a sufficient labouring population to enable them to keep the large capital invested in sugar estates in that colony in profitable employment; and so far from there being a want of machinery, which seems to me to be generally supposed in this part of the world, the inhabitants rather complain at the present moment of the excess of costly machinery which they have, and which they are unable to keep in active and profitable employment. That is the principal cause. There are various minor evils pressing upon them; but the greater part of them, when considered well, will be found to depend altogether, or in a great measure upon the want of a sufficient labouring population.

911. What remedy would you suggest as most likely to meet that deficiency in the labouring population?—Simply the introduction of an additional labouring population. But as I have stated before, I think also that the existing population might be rendered more efficient if sufficient and proper regulations could be devised to make them work steadily and regularly like the labouring population of any other part of the world, for I believe that, taking them collectively, they do not work more than one-third of their time; consequently, if they can be made to work more steadily by any other measure than that of immigration creating competition, if any regulation can effect that, which I very much doubt, certainly the present population might do three times as much work as they do at present.

912. Mr. *Hawes*.] Will you explain to the Committee what you mean "by any other measure than that of immigration creating competition"?—I may not have expressed myself clearly, but I mean to say this, that by immigration competition will be created amongst the labourers, and that I do not think (I may be mistaken

taken in that opinion) that any competition can be created except by an increased immigration; but if by regulations, as some may suppose, you can induce or compel the present population to work better than they do—to work, in fact, three times more in a week than they do at present, the result of that would be equivalent to trebling the actual labouring population.

913. *Chairman.*] Do you desire to suggest any other remedy besides the immigration of labourers, and laws for the regulation of labour?—I have nothing material to suggest further.

914. Are you able to state to the Committee to what extent the supply of sugar in Trinidad might be increased by immigration?—I think that the sugar cultivation in Trinidad might be increased to any required extent by sufficient immigration. I believe that the island is fully capable of growing sugar enough for the whole consumption of Europe; it would only require a sufficient number of hands to effect it.

915. What would be the effect upon the colony, on the other hand, if any number of estates were thrown out of cultivation from the want of labour?—This is a hypothetical case, supposing that the estates are thrown out of cultivation; I do not see myself, upon reflection, how at present any number of estates can be thrown out of cultivation; a proprietor may get in difficulties, and in order to pay accumulated debts his estate may be sold to meet the demands of the creditors, but it would go into the market and be sold at a reduced value; it will still be retained in cultivation; the new proprietor, when in possession, will become a competitor in the labour market with other proprietors on still better terms, because he will have bought the estate at less than its original value, and will be better able to pay a high rate of wages, so that I do not conceive that any estates can be thrown out of cultivation unless they belong to some capitalist owning three or four estates, who seeing the impossibility of selling them in the market for any fair sum of money, and that they are bringing him into debt every year, may be disposed to abandon for a time one or two of them, but that cannot be carried to any great extent.

916. Have you observed any particular alteration in the habits of the negro population since the abolition of slavery?—Very great indeed.

917. Of what nature?—It would require a very long statement indeed to describe it. In the first place, being in possession of large sums of money, their whole appearance and manner is changed, so far as that circumstance can effect it; they dress infinitely better; they purchase extravagant luxuries, and in every respect they are better off than they were before; great change, as has been stated, is also observable in their attendance at church; you find the churches now crowded with them, which they were not formerly; they have now the liberty of placing themselves in any part of the church, and taking a pew wherever they please; and more religious instruction has also been afforded them. We have more clergymen now than we had formerly, and they are using their best exertions on all occasions. In their outward appearance they are infinitely better than they used to be, and more regular in attendance at church and at school. To sum up all in one sentence, I hardly think that any individual going to the West Indies now, who had been in the West Indies during slavery, would know or believe the labouring population to be the same class of persons.

918. From whence has the increased supply of clergymen been obtained?—By the efforts of the Bishop of Barbadoes and the Catholic church in Trinidad, they have been increased in numbers, and are still upon the increase.

919. Have they come from England?—Some have been educated in the colonies, in the college at Barbadoes; I cannot particularly speak to that fact, but I know that their numbers have increased, and are increasing every day.

920. How are they paid in Trinidad for their services?—They are paid out of the colonial treasury.

921. At a fixed stipend?—Yes, it is part of the ways and means required.

922. Do they derive any income from their congregations?—Yes, I know with regard to fees that they do, but I cannot state exactly the extent; it varies with the different churches and the different congregations.

923. Mr. *Hawes.*] You stated that there was no want of capital in the island of Trinidad to promote the importation of labour?—I do not think I have so stated of the island of Trinidad; I meant only to say that the planters would easily obtain the capital that would be requisite to promote profitable labour.

924. You also stated that no estates had changed hands lately, so as to indicate

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any great change in the value of property?—No, not exactly. I mean to say that no changes that have taken place are of such a nature as to afford any fair or correct test of the value of property.

925. There is nothing, then, to show any great falling off in the value of property within your own knowledge?—I understand the universal complaint of every planter in the colony is, that he is losing money by his cultivation.

926. Have any estates been abandoned?—I think some one or two estates may have been abandoned.

927. Can you state positively whether they have or have not?—I can state positively that I know of one that has been abandoned.

928. Has it been sold, or attempted to be sold?—Attempted to be sold I cannot answer; it has not been sold, and I believe for a very good reason; for I can state to the Committee the feeling of the proprietor, who was convinced of the entire impossibility of selling it.

929. Has it been offered for sale?—I do not know.

930. Where is that estate?—It is in South Naparima.

931. Are there peculiar circumstances attending it, as to the soil and position?—There are peculiar circumstances. The proprietor owns three other estates, and he abandoned this because he found that it was more difficult to carry it on profitably than either of the other three.

932. I find it stated in the debate which took place in the year 1823, by a gentleman who, I suppose, may be considered as an authority upon matters of this sort, that the proprietors and planters of Trinidad declared the existing distress to be such, that on a capital of four millions invested in that colony, not one per cent. interest on an average had been received for the last year, and that even a loss had been incurred; that was stated in the House of Commons by Mr. Marryatt. May I not infer from your statement to-day that the condition of the planters in Trinidad is very materially improved since that time?—I feel certain, that in an economical point of view, the condition of the colony was much worse in 1841 than at any preceding period within my recollection; and that although loss may have occurred in 1823, it can by no means equal the loss that occurred in the cultivation of estates last year.

933. Then you mean to say that the statement in 1823 would not be a correct statement, inasmuch as the colony is worse off now than it was then?—It was correct at the time it was given, I believe, but really I do not recollect; I might, by referring back, state more precisely.

934. Would this be a correct statement now of the capital embarked in Trinidad?—I have no hesitation in saying that the state of distress in the colony in 1841 was infinitely worse. I am talking now of the aggregate, and so far as I have an opportunity of knowing the results from all the parties that I am acquainted with, there has not only been no interest received, but great loss of capital arising from the cultivation of 1841.

935. Do you confine that answer to one year, 1841, or to the range of time for the last few years?—I confine that answer to the year 1841.

936. Will you extend your view, and give me your opinion as to the state of the island of Trinidad within the last few years, as compared with any previous period, say 10 years further back. Has there or has there not been a progressive improvement in the cultivation, a progressive increase in the capital, and a progressive improvement in the labouring population?—There has not been any progressive increase in the cultivation; there has not, that I am aware of, been any progressive increase in the capital—I cannot answer pointedly to that; and there has not been any progressive moral improvement in the labouring population.

937. Has there been any increase in the produce exported from Trinidad in the average of the last 10 years, as compared with the 10 years before?—I have already delivered in a statement to the Committee, showing that the average of the last three years has been less than the average of any three preceding years, either in apprenticeship or in slavery.

938. And you adhere to that answer?—I adhere to that answer. But in my evidence upon the statement I handed in, I pointed out that the produce of coffee and of cocoa had increased.

939. Has then the trade of Trinidad generally increased?—The trade of Trinidad, so far as the imports into the colony are considered, has increased in the last three or four years.

940. With regard to exports?—With regard to exports of sugar, it has not; with

with regard to the exports of coffee and cocoa, it has; but when you look at the relative value of those articles, you may state that the whole amount of the exports from the colony has decreased.

941. How is that reconcilable with the fact which appears from the table you have put in in page 78 of your last evidence, showing that in the year 1832 the revenue from certain sources, which are there individualized, was 31,185 *l.*, and that in the year 1840 it was 68,790 *l.*?—Because, although the amount of produce exported was smaller than it had been before, yet owing to the differential sugar duties in this country, the produce rose to a higher value, and all duties in Trinidad being *ad valorem* duties, the amount of duty received is consequently directly dependent upon the value of the article exported.

942. The crop of 1842 promises to be large, does it not?—The crop of 1842, by the last accounts, promises to be large, from its appearance on the ground.

943. Large, as compared with 1841, or not?—Larger than that of 1841.

944. Was not the crop of 1841 larger than the crop of 1840?—It was.

945. Was the crop of 1840 larger than that of 1839?—You will find that it was decidedly smaller, by reference to the returns.

946. But from 1840 to 1842 there has been a progressive and yearly increase?—There has, provided the present crop is well taken off; there is an appearance of increase, but it is not yet realised.

947. Has there not been a large amount of sugar and other produce consumed by the labourers themselves; how far does that bear upon the diminished export of sugar?—I should think that it bears something upon the diminished export of sugar, and it is of that the planters complain, because a greater portion is taken from them by the labourers than they ought in justice to take.

948. Do not the labourers pay for what they take?—No.

949. Is it not given them in part compensation for labour?—You may say that it is, because they help themselves to it; and such is the demand for their labour that we dare not find fault with them; so that it is permitted, and goes on before our eyes; but it is not the lesser grievance on that account.

950. Do you remember the answers which were given to certain inquiries which were made with regard to the state of Trinidad in the year 1836, at the time that Sir George Hill was the governor?—I do not recollect it; but I shall be happy to refer to it, and give any explanation.

951. I allude to Papers relating to the abolition of slavery, Part 3, No. 166, to a despatch from Sir George Hill to Lord Glenelg, which is accompanied with certain answers to queries transmitted for the purpose of showing the state and condition of the island of Trinidad. In the despatch it does not appear that the parties names are to the answers which are transmitted by the governor as the result of the inquiries made by him?—I may have read it in the Parliamentary Papers, but I have no knowledge of anything respecting it in the colony of Trinidad.

952. You did not furnish any part of the information to the governor?—No, none; I do not think that Sir George Hill ever took any information from me.

953. Do you at all recollect, now you have looked at the paper, the fact of such inquiries having been made at that time in the island?—No, I do not think that there was any public inquiry; I rather think the governor answered the letter upon his own responsibility, but I cannot exactly reply to that. It is, I see, dated the 11th of September 1835; the apprenticeship commenced in 1834. I may have been in the island at that period, or I may have been out of it; for it was about that period I went as emigration agent to the United States of America, and without further reference I cannot speak to that point decidedly.

954. It is stated in those queries, "The present system of Spanish laws, which are yet in force in this island, and the imperfect knowledge of those laws, their ill adaptation to the English people as a commercial nation, and the thorough dread that every English merchant or trader has of lending his money or of encountering a lawsuit in Trinidad for the recovery of his property, prevents the investment of capital in that colony." Do those laws still remain in force, and is that your opinion?—It would be difficult to say what laws are in force at the present time in the island of Trinidad. The basis of our law is Spanish law; it has never been abrogated, and we have never received British law; but the Spanish law has been so modified and changed by repeated ordinances passed in this country, that an eminet Spanish lawyer in Trinidad told me that it was not Spanish law that was existing there at this moment. I do believe that at the period when

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capital could be profitably employed, it did deter and prevent as much capital from going into the island as otherwise might have taken place; but at the present moment, capital cannot be profitably employed, and I think we have too much fixed and immovable in the colony.

955. Which you state is not now profitably employed?—Which was not profitably employed last year; and whether it will be profitably employed this year will depend upon many contingent circumstances—upon immigration—upon what is to be the state of the sugar market, which no man can tell, so that I cannot pretend to give a direct answer.

956. The state of the law at present does not at all influence the general undertakings, or enterprises, or speculations in the island?—I have no doubt that if capital were required for profitable employment in the island of Trinidad, we should not get as much of it from the mercantile interest in this country as if we had British law in force there.

957. Has any effort been made to reform the state of the law there?—Whenever a case seemed to require it, an Order in Council has been framed and sent out, and they have from time to time attempted to amend the state of the laws in the colony, so far as they found it requisite.

958. Will you give the Committee some information of the administration of justice in the colony, proceeding first to the administration of justice in offences; in cases of petty theft who acts as judge?—They are tried in the first instance by stipendiary justices; but criminal cases of a serious nature go before the court of First Instance, in Port of Spain.

959. But you have some offences, have you not, heard entirely by the local justices of the peace?—None; we have none but stipendiary magistrates.

960. Who presides in the superior court to which you have referred?—Three judges. appointed by the Crown in Great Britain.

961. Are they all lawyers?—Yes.

962. Barristers?—One gentleman is a Spanish lawyer; and was originally assessor to Sir Ralph Woodford; he is now one of the puisne judges; but has never passed the bar in Great Britain. With respect to the second puisne judge, I have heard he was never called to the bar. He studied here, and acted as a barrister in Trinidad for some time. The chief judge is a gentleman well known as an English barrister, and considered to be a man of talent.

963. Do any of the authorities of the island sit on the bench with the judges or not?—They do; but permit me to say in explanation, that many changes in the administration of justice have taken place within the last few years, during which period I have been employed officially out of the colony, and during that period have only passed about six or eight months at a time within it, so that I give the information now required with a considerable degree of diffidence. I believe that there are assessors appointed in criminal cases from among the inhabitants, who sit with the judges on the tribunal of criminal prosecutions.

964. In the cases where assessors are appointed are the cases decided by the individual votes of those sitting upon the bench, or does the opinion of the Chief Justice prevail?—Where there are assessors I believe it is entirely decided by the assessors, and the judges only decide upon the law.

965. What are the salaries of the judges?—I believe 2,500 *l.* a year for the chief judge, and 1,500 *l.* a year for each of the two puisne judges.

966. What class of cases do the assessors hear?—I cannot speak to that.

967. What is the nature of the business that comes before that court?—All criminal cases which are of too great an extent to be decided by the stipendiary magistrate, whose jurisdiction is limited, are brought before the court in Port of Spain, and the assessors decide upon those cases.

968. Then disputes between master and servant, and between labourer and master, come ultimately before this court?—They may; but I do not think that any have been brought before that court.

969. Who are the assessors; are they planters or merchants?—They are planters and merchants, selected generally from the great body of the inhabitants by some rule under an order in council, the particulars of which I am not acquainted with.

970. But an appeal lies to them in cases brought before the special justices?—I do not think any cases, within the province and jurisdiction of the stipendiary magistrates, can be carried in appeal before them.

971. What class of cases can be carried before them?—I believe that they are principally

principally criminal cases of too grave a character for the stipendiary justices; under the instructions of an Order in Council they must be carried before the court of criminal prosecutions.

972. And that court is composed of assessors who are planters and merchants in the island?—Yes.

973. Sitting with the chief justice, and deciding cases by vote?—I believe so.

974. Have you a legislative council in your island?—We have.

975. How is it constituted?—There are 12 members; six are termed official members, because they all hold official situations under the government; there are six other members who hold no official situation, but they must possess property in the island of Trinidad; the whole 12 are appointed by the Crown, and removable at pleasure by the Crown.

976. Is there any salary attached to their office?—No.

977. Are they persons engaged in trade and mercantile pursuits?—Yes; it is one of their qualifications, that they should possess property in the colony.

978. They are in fact planters?—They are in fact planters and merchants.

979. What is the business of the legislative council?—It is to give an opinion and advice upon any subject that the Governor chooses to bring before them, and to perform the general legislative business of the colony, so far as the powers they possess will enable them to do so.

980. Did this council resist or not the abolition of the apprenticeship system up to within a few days of the 1st of August 1838?—It did.

981. What measure did the Governor of the colony, under such circumstances, resort to in order to facilitate the introduction of that measure?—I cannot say, for I left the colony a few days before.

982. You were not a member of the legislative council at that time?—I was a member of the legislative council prior to the passing of the Act for the abolition of apprenticeship; but the abolition itself took place after my departure from the island.

983. Were there any measures taken to facilitate the introduction of the measure—to prepare the labourers for it, either by law or otherwise?—Up to the period of my departure no preparations were made; on the contrary, the labourers were distinctly informed by a proclamation, that the abolition of apprenticeship would not take place until the year 1840.

984. There were no measures, then, suggested in the council, in order to prepare the labourers of the island for so great a change?—A proposition, for the abolition of apprenticeship may have been made at that time, and measures suggested to assist it, but I do not recollect, not having been present.

985. You know of none yourself?—I know of no public official Acts that were passed for that purpose whilst I was in the colony.

986. You did not think it your duty to suggest any yourself, as a member of the council?—None at all; I considered myself that the abolition of apprenticeship should not have taken place.

987. Did you take any part in the proceedings of the council, with reference to the preparation of the slaves or apprentices for a state of freedom, subsequently to the abolition of apprenticeship?—It passed in August 1838; and I did not return to the colony till 1840, but my whole time and attention has been bestowed both there and elsewhere, in endeavours to facilitate and to pass every measure that I thought advantageous for the general improvement of the colony and the labouring population.

988. Will you refer to any measures which, through your instrumentality, were passed when you were in the colony?—The principal measure has been in trying, if possible, to secure an immigration of population, which I consider to be radically necessary for the improvement of the moral condition of the labourers, considering that, until there is competition among them, wages will remain higher than is favourable to the moral improvement of labourers in any part of the world; that was the principal measure. But I perceived immediately on my return to the colony, that the system of allowances, and particularly that of rum, was extremely hurtful to their morals, and disadvantageous in every respect. I exerted myself, as far as I possibly could, to put down that system, and, believing that I should best succeed in improving the condition of the labourers, by collecting information enabling the public of this country to ascertain more correctly the actual condition of Trinidad, I assiduously employed myself in getting up that evidence which is now in the Parliamentary Papers on the Table.

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989. Those were the two principal measures which you directed your attention to?—Yes; and which pretty nearly occupied the whole of my time.

990. Did the planters on other estates take any steps to prepare the negroes for emancipation, prior to the abolition of apprenticeship, or subsequently?—I have no doubt that they did everything which they thought requisite.

991. With reference to your own estates, did you take any specific measures for preparing your labourers for a state of perfect freedom?—The planters in the island built churches and subscribed money for schools. I was absent, and leading facts of that kind only impress themselves on my memory. They felt that they were in a situation of danger, and that it was absolutely requisite that every man should exert his influence in the colony to meet the great change; and, with reference to the building of churches, and the establishment of schools, the colonists I know did a great deal, the particulars of which will no doubt be found in the Parliamentary Papers. They subscribed their money and gave their land, and they also gave their time as committee-men in looking after the building of churches.

992. Keeping in mind the evidence generally which you have given to-day, with reference to preparatory measures for the thorough emancipation of the slaves, are you, or are you not, of opinion that the labourers have both worked and conducted themselves as well as could reasonably be expected?—I believe that the labourers in Trinidad have conducted themselves and have worked as well as any labourers would have done in any other part of the world, if subjected to the same influences and the same temptations that they have been; and I have no complaint myself to make against the moral disposition of the people there, but against the existing state of affairs, which has not been created by their fault.

993. Will you describe, a little more specifically, what you mean by "the existing state of affairs;" do you refer to the unsettled habits of the labourers alone?—No; that is one of the consequences, not one of the causes. The cause is simply this, which has been my answer to a variety of other questions (and we always must come back to the root of the evil), namely, the paucity of the labouring population, which prevents competition amongst them; and they are enabled to make more money than is good and advantageous for them, which I consider to be the great cause why, instead of advancing in moral improvement, they are rather retrograding at the present period; for I hold that it is impossible for any moral improvement to take place in a community where the want of a good character and good reputation interpose no serious obstacle to a man's gaining a lucrative employment; and this is distinctly stated by one of the clergymen, in answer to questions 147 and 148 in the Trinidad evidence. Further, I consider that it is not possible for a labouring man to improve when idleness, dissipation, and inebriety carry with them no immediate privation or suffering; and this is stated by another clergyman, in answer to question 97; I think, therefore, that, in the absence of those penalties for misconduct, the rising generation cannot improve, whatever may be the amount of religious instruction given to them; for I think that it is in the school of domestic suffering that moral lessons are most deeply impressed on the youthful mind, and when the son sees his father and mother and the whole family suffering from his parents' irregularities, he derives from it more solid instruction than any school alone, or any attendance at church can ever bestow.

994. It appears by the evidence that you require no character from the labourers who apply for employment?—That appears to be the case; and, so far as my own observation went, it is perfectly correct.

995. Is the number of special magistrates sufficient for the settlement of disputes between master and servant?—It must be sufficient, because it appears that no cases were brought before them; but, if the state of affairs were to change in Trinidad, and the employer was not to be afraid of carrying the cases that do occur before the stipendiary magistrate, I should say that there would not be enough by any means for the proper ends of justice.

996. You are now deterred, I understand you to say, from carrying cases that would otherwise be carried before the stipendiary magistrates, from the fear of offending the labouring population?—From the fear of offending the labouring population, and from the knowledge that it would be of very little use so to do; and to corroborate this opinion, permit me to read this answer (608, page 98). The planter was complaining very seriously of the misconduct of the labourers, and the question put to him is this, "Cannot you check many of the proceedings you have mentioned by complaining to the stipendiary magistrate?—I have tried it, and two labourers were

were fined for stopping the work at the mill by neglecting their duty; but the example had so little effect upon themselves or others, that it afforded little encouragement to repeat it, as it involved the loss of much time, and gave great trouble at a period of the crop when every moment was valuable." There is direct evidence to the circumstance that the planters are deterred by the little advantage that is gained by carrying labourers before the stipendiary magistrate. I can refer, if you wish it, to other evidence, showing that they are also deterred from the fear of offending the labourers.

997. Have the labourers at any time manifested any want of confidence in the decisions of the stipendiary justices?—It appears that there are few or no decisions by the stipendiary magistrates, because there are few or no cases brought before them.

998. You know of no want of confidence on the part of the labourers?—No, I do not. I believe they are generally satisfied with such decisions of the stipendiary magistrates as have been given.

999. Have the stipendiary magistrates any occupation in addition to the discharge of their public duties?—No, they are engaged in no branch of business; it is generally understood that they are not to be possessed of property.

1000. You stated in answer to question 862 of your former evidence, "that the general opinion of the inhabitants is, that at least one-third in round numbers have retired;" that is one-third of the efficient working slaves at the period of emancipation; "that the opinion of the surveyor-general is, that they retired as fast as others came in, and we find from the returns of the immigration agent, that some eight or ten thousand have come in, so that if he is correct in his opinion, eight or ten thousand persons have retired;" do you distinctly adhere to that answer?—I distinctly adhere to the opinion given in that answer, because it is corroborated by the opinion of others who, in default of an actual census by which to know the exact number, think that the towns have increased in a proportion which would bring us to the same result. Port of Spain, San Fernando, and other towns that have sprung up in various parts of the island, taking all collectively, I believe have not been increased in a less proportion than to the amount of eight thousand.

1001. Is the Committee to understand it to be your opinion, that, notwithstanding this importation of labour, the actual amount of labour applied to sugar and other cultivation in the island is not greater now than it was in the year before the emancipation?—I do not think that the amount of labour applied at the present moment to sugar estates, to which I wish to limit myself, is greater than it was before emancipation.

1002. You give that answer considering that the imported labourers do occasionally labour to the extent of one or two days in the week?—They occaaionally labour to the extent of many more days in the week. The Americans are found to labour very assiduously. When I have talked of one or two days in the week, I mean only the average of all, including the idlers with the industrious people in the colony.

1003. In what proportion do the eight or ten thousand persons, whom you state to have retired from field labour, consist of immigrants and emancipated labourers?—With respect to the eight or ten thousand, whom I believe to have retired from labour, I cannot state positively, as there is no census or accurate calculation on the subject; but I believe that the greater proportion are of the old established negroes of the colony, creoles of the colony.

1004. And the whole number of imported labourers have supported and continue to support themselves; and their condition, so far as regards their means of subsistence is improved?—Their physical comforts are very great, and they support themselves.

1005. Then your evidence as regards the deterioration of any part of the island of Trinidad, either as to the diminution of capital, or as to the state of cultivation, relates chiefly to the sugar estates?—The diminution I spoke of has taken place only in the cultivation, and the annual revenues of the estates; the capital is a fixed capital, and there it remains so long as it can be preserved and kept together, but when capital cannot be disposed of, and sold in the market even though in its fixed state it remains entire, it must be said to have deteriorated in a very great degree. To that extent all capital is deteriorated in Trinidad.

1006. With reference to the number that you say have retired from field labour, some of that number must necessarily have retired from old age and other causes of that description?—Yes, the calculation is a loose one, it is based in a great

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degree upon the increase of the towns, and I presume that the old as well as others have retired into the towns.

1007–8. Can you state what has been the increase of the population?—No; no census has been taken in the last three or four years, arising entirely from the wandering character of the people rendering it impossible to collect them together and count them.

1009. Viscount *Ghelsea.*] Are the Committee to understand you positively to state that the amount of labour has not increased, looking at the statement which you have made in number 862. "The opinion of the surveyor-general is, that they retired as fast as others came in, and we find from the returns of the immigration agent that some eight or ten thousand have come in; that is partial, for many of the people who retire still continue to labour one or two days a week;" how is that consistent with your present statement?—It is difficult to give any decided opinion; I wished to guard myself against the assertion that it was a total retirement from field labour; I know that many of those who have settled themselves in the country do occasionally work upon the estates whenever they want ready money, so that it is not a total or an entire retirement from field labour in all cases.

1010. But that partial labour is not to such an amount as to affect the general statement, that the amount of labour has decreased rather than increased?—The amount of labour had positively decreased previous to the middle of last year; and at that period the general opinion was, that it amounted to about the same as it had done previous to the abolition of apprenticeship; things have improved within the last year, the expectation of the crop this year being larger than the last, shows the general opinion in that respect, and the result may prove it correct.

1011. Mr. *Hawes.*] Then the Committee understand you to state, that whilst the general revenue of the colony has more than doubled, and whilst the physical comforts of the labourers have increased, the sugar estates have diminished in value, and now do not return a fair interest for the capital embarked in them?—The sugar estates I may say have diminished in value, because I do not believe if you were to attempt to sell them in the market you would get anything like the value for them which they previously held; and during the year 1841 last past, there was no interest received upon the aggregate of sugar estates in Trinidad for the whole capital embarked in them.

1012. Without reference to one year, speaking generally, do you mean to say, that notwithstanding the great increase in the revenue of the island, and the great increase in the trade of the island, and the great increase in the physical comforts of the labourers of the island, the sugar estates alone present a spectacle of deteriorated value, and of capital employed without remuneration?—I beg to say, that I think that the sugar estates have deteriorated in value, and that the capital so employed has given very unprofitable returns, and that both are proved in a great degree by the great increase of the revenue of the island and of the trade; and that it also partially arises from the increased physical comforts of the labourers; because the great increase in the revenue of the island has arisen principally from the large and increased imports. Those imports consist of articles of consumption by the labourers, which they have been enabled to buy with the high wages which they have compelled the proprietors to give them; they have obtained luxuries to three or four times the extent which they were ever able to purchase before; consequently the planter has been a sufferer to that extent; and the increased trade and increased revenue exhibit the causes of his suffering; the physical comforts which the labourers have been enabled to purchase, can come only out of the increased wages which the planter has been compelled to give; and the increased wages, and the very small amount of steady continuous labour which he has in consequence got from them, have been the direct causes of his circumstances being deteriorated, and his income being lessened during the last year.

1013. Without confining your answer to the last year?—If the extraordinary circumstances depending upon political affairs here, and the protection given in this country, had not raised the price of sugar; if the market had remained in the same state in which it was previously to emancipation; he would have been a loser throughout every year, including 1839, 1840, and 1841: which the gradual and unexpected rise in sugar alone prevented.

1014. I see that the fees of public offices, in the table you have put in, have very much increased. From what sources do they come, and how are they employed?—I cannot distinctly reply to that question; but I believe that those fees principally attach to offices, the owners of which now receive a fixed salary in lieu

of

of their fees, and consequently, although fees are still taken from applicants, they are all paid into the colonial treasury, so that, if any change should be made in an office, which was formerly paid by fees, and now paid by a salary, an increase in the treasury receipts will result, although no more fees are exacted than were paid before.

1015. What houses pay the house tax?—All the houses in the town of the Port of Spain.

1016. Then, if you state that the towns have materially increased in population, how does it happen that the house tax has decreased since the year 1832?—It may have decreased from the assessment being smaller; certainly the number of houses have not decreased, that I can speak to as a fact.

1017. Viscount *Howick*.] Does not the house tax extend to the other parts of the island?—It does not.

1018. Mr. *Hawes*.] Is it levied upon all houses, or are there any houses exempted?—I do not think that there are any exempted.

1019. Viscount *Howick*.] Some of the negro population occupy those houses?—A great number.

1020. Do they pay the tax themselves?—Yes, provided they are proprietors of the houses. They may be only lessees; it is the proprietors who pay the tax. Many are hired only for a week, or a fortnight, or a month, particularly by that class of the population.

1021. Mr. *Hawes*.] I believe the attorney and solicitor-general are *ex officio* members of the council?—They are.

1022. Are they at all engaged in any mercantile pursuits in the island?—No; one of them is a planter; the other neither holds land, nor is he at all engaged in mercantile business; he is entirely occupied in his business as a barrister.

1023. Which is engaged in land?—The attorney-general is a proprietor of land.

1024. Viscount *Howick*.] I see that there is a large increase in the item of quit-rent upon the sale of Crown land, can you state whether that increase has arisen from land being sold, or from a more strict collection of the quit-rents?—I do not think that an acre of land has been sold; it arises from arrears that have been collected since the arrival of Sir Henry Macleod in the colony as governor, which were allowed to be unpaid before.

1025. Have not almost the whole of the lands been sold, subject to quit-rent?—All the lands that were sold by the British Government, were, I believe, originally subject to a quit-rent, but with the privilege of redeeming that quit-rent, so that many have been redeemed, and many still continue to pay the quit-rent.

1026. Since the present governor has been in the island the quit-rents have been more strictly collected?—I should say that all the arrears of taxes have been more strictly collected.

1027. The practice is now to enforce strictly the payment of quit-rent?—I hope it is the case; it certainly appeared to me to be the intention when I left the colony.

1028. I see that the duty upon exports amounted in 1840 to 15,000 *l.*; is that a duty of 3½ per cent. upon all exports of every description?—Upon the export of all produce raised upon the land.

1029. That duty must form a considerable charge upon the planters?—It forms a considerable charge, and we think also an impolitic charge at the present moment, looking forward to the period when we are expected to be able to compete with other countries, in the export of sugar, cotton, and other articles, and that it would be disadvantageous to our competition to export an article with 3½ per cent. duty imposed upon it, when cotton is exported from America free of all duty.

1030. You conceive that it would be a material assistance to the planters, in their present difficulties, if they could be relieved from the export duty, if the necessary amount of revenue could be raised by some form of taxation pressing more upon the labourers?—It would be an improvement to the extent to which it went, but which would be a very small item indeed towards the relief of our present embarrassments, but it would be a relief which we should be glad to see, not so much from its immediate as from its prospective advantages, when we expect to be placed in a better situation.

1031. Can you inform the Committee how the old and infirm persons incapable of maintaining themselves by labour, are generally maintained in the island?—

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There is a small establishment in the town of Port of Spain, for the refuge of destitute persons; and I think something of the same kind is maintained by the Cabildo, and by private subscription; but the whole, collectively, are not large; the great body of infirm persons in the island, the old and aged, are maintained by their relations, and friends, and the families to which they belong.

1032. But there is some public institution for the relief of those who have not friends and relations to maintain them?—There are in Port of Spain, and there are several benefit societies supported by the labourers themselves, in various parts of the rural districts.

1033. Is there anything in the nature of a public hospital?—There is a public hospital in the town of Port of Spain only.

1034. In this hospital would any immigrant who was disabled, and who had no relations in the colony, be received and maintained till he could maintain himself by his own labour?—I believe it was established in a great degree for that purpose; they are all admitted upon application. And there is the very interesting evidence of Dr. Butler, before the Trinidad Committee, who is superintendent of the hospital and chief physician, upon that very subject.

1035. How is the expense of these institutions defrayed?—The expenses of the benefit societies are defrayed by the parties who are engaged in them, some institutions by the Cabildo of Port of Spain, others by the voluntary contribution of the inhabitants who subscribe. The hospital of Port of Spain, which is the largest establishment, is paid out of the Colonial funds.

1036. You say one is maintained by the Cabildo?—Yes, some charitable institution.

1037. What sources of income are possessed by the Cabildo?—The Cabildo have a portion of the house tax in Port of Spain, which I have just alluded to, for it is a municipal tax. They are owners of the market-house and fish-house, and they derive a revenue from letting out the stalls in both places, and there may be some other minor sources which I am not acquainted with.

1038. The Cabildo in Port of Spain performs the functions usually performed by any other municipal governing body?—Yes. I must beg so far to amend the term, for the name of Cabildo has been recently, within the last year or two, changed to that of town-council; they are now called the town-council, but up to that period it existed, and from Spanish times under the name of Cabildo.

1039. It was a form of municipal government?—Yes, the name has been changed, but, I belive, there have been no material changes in their functions.

1040. Have the labourers any influence in electing the Cabildo?—I believe the majority of householders who elect the members of the Cabildo are of negro descent.

1041. Are any of the negroes members of the body?—I should think they are; they have the power of electing them; and I think the probability is, that there are many them who compose the town council. The majority of electors I think are people of colour; but I cannot speak positively even to that.

1042. Is that a form of government applicable to the rest of the island, or is it confined to the Port of Spain?—Exclusively to the Port of Spain.

1043. You have nothing of the kind with reference to other parts?—No.

1044. Do you think that it would be useful throughout the colony?—Decidedly; I do not see how we can get on unless they are established.

1045. Mr. *Bankes*.] With respect to the revenue, are you aware whether there has been any variation in or lowering of the duties on exports since the year 1836?—The duty has been three and a half per cent. for a great many years; but every month a new valuation is placed upon the produce, as it rises or falls in the market.

1046. I observe the amount of export duty, in the year 1836, to be considerably higher than in the year 1840, according to this statement?—The crop in 1836 was 50 per cent. larger than in 1840.

1047. What articles are they upon which the duties are levied, which constitute the amount that appears under the head, "Foreign Duties from the Collector of Customs?"—They are all foreign articles; but the principal article is flour, some provisions, a large quantity of oil and wine, and Mediterranean articles, which a foreign population, such as that of Trinidad is, in its tastes and habits, in a great degree, always require.

1048. How are those articles distinguished from those which are included under the general head of duties on imports?—Because they are entirely collected by the collector

collector of customs, under the authority of the customs and the home Government; and, after providing for the salaries and expenses which the establishment there requires, the balance is paid into the colonial treasury.

1049. Can you state what are the articles included under the general head of duties on imports?—They include every possible article than can be imported into the island, except British linen, cotton goods, and dried fish, which pay no duty; I do not know of any other exception.

1050. Viscount *Howick.*] Is not the tonnage-duty a tax that it would be advantageous to dispense with, if possible?—It was so considered some years ago; and the tonnage-duty, formerly much higher, was entirely given up. Since that period difficulties arose; money was wanted in the treasury; and the legislative council and the governor, after considering all their ways and means, thought it expedient to lay a small duty on the tonnage of ships, and so it re-commenced; but nothing but necessity, I believe, would have led them to do it.

1051. Mr. *Bankes.*] You have stated that there has been a very considerable increase of buildings within the last few years?—Yes, I am sure that must have been the case, so far as my own observations went; I saw houses building in every direction; and I know of whole villages which crept up along lines of road in the country, so that the buildings altogether, such as they are, must have increased very considerably.

1052. Are those generally erected by private individuals, or as a matter of speculation by any capitalist?—Generally by private individuals, for their own use, unless it be houses that were built by planters on their own estates, for the accommodation of labourers; but in the towns it is not the practice with builders to engage in the building of houses on speculation.

1053. For the accommodation of what class of persons have those buildings chiefly been erected in the towns?—The great majority of them most decidedly must have been buildings for the labouring population, for it is only in that class of people that a great increase has taken place.

1054. *Chairman.*] You stated that, in your opinion, the condition of the colony was worse in 1841 than at any former period; do you think that it was worse in 1841 than it was in the preceding year?—Certainly. I am alluding now always to sugar estates, though I do not think that it is an incorrect opinion with regard even to cocoa and coffee, because the cocoa planters have been always petitioning the government for assistance; but speaking of the sugar estates, the condition of the proprietor was much worse in 1841 than it was in 1840, because in 1841 the sugars netted here 30*l.* to 40*l.* a hogshead, and in 1841 they fell to 20*l.* a hogshead, which rendered his condition infinitely worse; and to that cause alone is to be ascribed the great distress of the planter in 1841.

1055. Lord *Stanley.*] Will you state what you consider the price of sugar in this country ought to be, in order to give a fair return to the planter, according to the present expenses of raising sugar in the colony?—I hardly think that the cultivation in Trinidad can ever be carried on safely under present circumstances, because it would require a continued rise in the price of sugar. It is not a high price for sugar which will keep up profitable cultivation; it must rise regularly, year after year, because the labourers, having the power of fixing their own wages, progressively extort from the planter wages proportionate to the actual price of sugar; so that we require a rise in the ensuing year to make a profit.

1056. At the present rate of wages and present system of cultivation, what price per hogshead do you conceive would return a profit to the planter, supposing him to be unencumbered by debt?—Supposing that labour is no better and no more continuous than it was when I left the island (as everything would depend upon that), I think we could not get on satisfactorily, paying half a dollar for a task, unless sugar nets 2*l.* per hundred weight.

1057. Mr. *Hawes.*] Do you mean 40*s.* a hundred weight here?—Yes.

1058. Will you state the price in Trinidad?—It would require a very high price. But the difficulty in answering the question arises from this circumstance, that the expense of the cultivation in Trinidad at the present moment does not depend, principally, on the amount of wages given; it arises from the loss, waste, destruction, and damage which are going on upon them. It is not an uncommon instance (for every year it occurs), that fire stake place upon an estate, that from a small portion to a large portion is destroyed, arising entirely from the carelessness of the negro population. Connected with their present wandering habits, and the impossibility of keeping them under sufficient control, there results an immense expen-

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diture, which no reasonable price hardly can meet; so that I find it quite impossible to state accurately any amount sufficient to leave the planter a profit, under the actual circumstances of the case.

1059. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Is there no test of the actual value of land in Trinidad to which you can refer?—There is a test of the value of small lots of land in particular situations near towns, because a number of sales have been effected.

1060. No sales have been effected of sugar estates?—No sales, that I am aware of, that would afford anything like a test.

1061. Then on what is your opinion of the depreciated value of land founded?—I believe that unless a large population is introduced, sufficient to secure continuous labour, the estates will be of little or no value. I myself, if I felt assured that affairs would not improve by an accession of labourers, should be quite disposed to abandon an estate or two to-morrow rather than continue to cultivate them; and I have a strong feeling and conviction, that if I were to attempt to sell them in the market it would be impossible.

1062. But as yet no estates have been abandoned?—One I know, decidedly. And I have no doubt that by inquiry in the colony, it would be found that several others have been abandoned.

1063. Do I understand the answer you gave just now correctly to this effect, that the losses you sustain are not so much on account of the high prices paid, as on account of the negligent conduct of the labourers?—Yes; the opinion of the planters is, that they suffer more by loss and wear and tear and irregular bad labour, than from the absolute amount of wages; and there are many persons besides myself who think that we could afford to pay the present wages, and go on profitably, if we had steady continuous labour in the island.

1064. *Chairman.*] I observe by the Revenue statement you have put in, that the revenue of Trinidad in 1832, deducting the slave tax of 9,877 *l.*, which cannot be again imposed, amounted to only 21,308 *l.*, and in 1840 it had increased to 68,970 *l.*; do you not consider that that very great increase in the revenue of the colony is inconsistent with your statement as to the very distressed state of the colony in 1841?—No, I do not, because that very accession to the revenue rather proves the distressed state of the proprietors and planters; it has arisen from the greater quantity of imported articles which have paid a duty, particularly those collected by the custom-house, which goods have been paid for by the labouring population out of the increased wages which they have extracted from the planters; consequently, although the value of sugar has risen considerably, the share which the planter has been able to get of that increased value has been diminished every year, exactly in proportion to the increase of the revenue.

1065. Viscount *Chelsea.*] You state that the principal cause of the depreciated value of land in estates is the unsteady habits of the present labouring population; do you think you could expect more steady habits from immigrants?—Certainly; if you introduced a sufficient number they would be obliged to work for lower wages. A man would work five days in the week to gain the same luxuries which he can now obtain by working for only two days.

1066. Then you expect some amount of relief to yourselves from a depreciated rate of wages?—We feel satisfied, that if you introduce a competition among the labourers, the rate of wages will be depreciated; but I am satisfied of this, that they never can be depreciated in Trinidad so low as to affect the proper comforts of the labouring population.

1067. In the former part of your evidence you stated that you did not look to any relief yourself from a depreciated rate of wages?—The inhabitants of Trinidad do not look so much to the reduction in the rate of wages as to increased competition among the labourers creating steady and better work; and they would even be content to keep up the present rate of wages, if they could secure that steady work. But I am certain, that no competition can take place among the labourers but by increased numbers, the consequence of which would immediately be to reduce the rate of wages.

1068. Mr. *Hawes.*] You wish to bring about, in fact, a perfectly free competition among the labourers?—We do; we consider that the moral improvement of the labourers will depend upon it, as well as the economical and profitable cultivation of the estates.

1069. Suppose you had that conceded to you, should you be prepared to sell your sugar in a perfectly free and open market without protection here?—I do, but consider myself, that in the present state of the West India colonies, it would be

be a most dangerous step to attempt it but by a gradual and regular mode of proceeding, and that it must be accompanied simultaneously by a gradual and regular introduction of an additional population, which would require a great deal of consideration and reflection to manage safely and properly. But it must be done, because it is clear and certain, that ultimately we must place ourselves on the same footing as sugar growers in other parts of the world, and that no man will ever believe that emancipation has been successful until we grow sugar as cheaply as the planters in Brazil and Cuba can do.

1070. You would subject the labourer to immediate competition, and you would subject the employer of the labourer to a progressive and gradual competition?—No; I have stated distinctly that the one measure should accompany the other. and both be gradual and progressive; and that it would require a considerable degree of skill and intelligence to adopt such measure properly and advan tageously.

1071. Can you furnish the Committee with the imports into Trinidad from 1831 to 1841, or for any period of time?—I will procure it.

Robert Henry Church, Esq. called in; and Examined.

1072. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the colony of Trinidad?—I am.

1073. How long did you reside there?—Nearly five years, with a few intermissory visits to Grenada.

1074. Which were the five years during which you resided in Trinidad?—Between the years 1836 and 1841.

1075. When did you leave the island?—The 6th of April 1841.

1076. What was your occupation in Trinidad?—A planter; I was agent for an absent proprietor.

1077. What was the estate of which you were agent?—Harmony Hall and Paradise.

1078. Had you the sole superintendence of that estate?—I had the chief superintendence.

1079. Were there any laws or ordinances by which you regulated your contracts with labourers?—There were several enacted with such intent, but not being well defined I never appealed to them.

1080. What were they?—The rural police ordinance, the contract ordinance, the trespass ordinance; there were seven in all, bearing upon the question more or less.

1081. Were you in the habit of making any contracts with your labourers for rent, or in reference to the occupation of their lands and houses?—No.

1082. What was your process of ejectment, and how did you recover occupation of the lands and houses?—A week's notice was given; if they did not retire in that time, the stipendiary magistrate was applied to, and he ejected them by sending over the constabulary police to eject them.

1083. Lord *Stanley.*] Did you frequently resort to ejectment?—Not in a solitary instance upon the estate where I was; but I have known it to be done. I should say that there was often occasion, but it was not resorted to.

1084. When you say there was often occasion, upon what ground?—From the labourers absenting themselves from work.

1085. What were the agreements that you made with the labourers for the occupation of their premises?—The engagement was implied, that whilst they occupied their houses and grounds they should labour upon the estate.

1086–7. What were the penalties?—None but ejectment. Whilst they occupied the house and ground they were supposed to labour upon the estate; if they did not, application was made to the stipendiary magistrate for an ejectment.

1088. Did the labourers pay any rent for their houses?—None.

1089. *Chairman.*] When disputes arose between you and your labourers, were they settled by reference to the stipendiary magistrate?—They were, but I preferred conciliation.

1090. Did your labourers usually occupy land and houses upon the plantation?—They did.

1091. When did that occupation commence?—It commenced in slavery and continued through the apprenticeship, until the emancipation Act passed.

1092. Lord *Stanley.*] Did the labourers in general continue to occupy the same

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same huts which they occupied in slavery, through the apprenticeship, and subsequently?—Some of them did; but others were repaired, or new ones built for them.

1093. Viscount *Howick.*] Are they in general much better lodged than they were during slavery?—They are.

1094. *Chairman.*] You have stated that no rent was paid?—None whatever.

1095. What is your opinion with regard to the expediency of establishing a payment of rent by labourers?—As to the expediency of it I do not like to give a decided opinion, but I think it would be very useful, if it could be adopted, that a rent should be paid for the house and grounds which they occupy, and deducted from their wages, whatever they might earn.

1096. You think that would be an improvement upon the present system?—I do.

1097. In what manner did you make contracts with your labourers?—They were merely implied.

1098. Lord *Stanley.*] How were their wages paid?—Weekly, in money.

1099. Viscount *Howick.*] With allowances?—Yes, money and allowances; the allowances went with the money.

1100. Lord *Stanley.*] What was the average rate of your money wages?—We commenced with 1 *s.* 3 *d.* in 1838.

1101. Are you speaking of first-rate labourers, or had you any classification of labourers?—We had a classification, that was, the first class labourers we commenced with 1 *s.* 3 *d.* sterling; upon the 1st of January 1839 it increased to 1 *s.* 8 *d.*, and shortly afterwards it rose to 2 *s.* 1 *d.* or 2 *s.* 1 ½ *d.*, or half dollar in fact.

1102. Was that 2 *s.* 1 ½ *d.*, for a day's work?—Yes, for the day or task.

1103. Were you in the habit of paying by the day, or by the task?—Both; in crop by the day, out of crop by the task, and in some few instances by the day out of crop also.

1104. In paying by the task, did you pay the same amount as you paid by the day?—We did.

1105. With regard to the first-class labourers, did you pay for the task the same amount which you paid by the day?—We never paid by the day in field labour, always task-work, but the task-work and day were considered of course as one payment; if they worked one task they were entitled to a day's payment.

1106. Was it not the fact that the task could be performed in a very small portion of the day?—It could be easily performed in five hours.

1107. Were you never in the habit, if they worked by the task, of paying for more than one task in the day, or did you never obtain more than one task in the day?—Often.

1108. Did you find that the labour was better performed when working by the task than by the day?—It was not very well performed by either, but if the superintendents did their duty and reported it being ill done, they were obliged to go over it again, but in many instances that was not done.

1109. Were the superintendents negroes also?—They were white men and negroes.

1110. Can you state in what proportion?—There was probably one white man over the estate, and one or more black superintendents.

1111. Did you find that the black superintendents were equally efficient with the whites?—They were, as task measurers.

1112. They did their duty?—They did their duty pretty well, and it was often a very laborious one.

1113. What wages did they receive for superintending?—They received half a dollar a day, with double allowance.

1114. What number of superintendents had you in proportion to the number of labourers?—There was not more than one man employed upon the estate, and we had forty, fifty, and sometimes more labourers; but seldom all at work.

1115. Did you find that that labour was better done upon the estate when you adopted the system of task-work, than when you adopted the system of day-work?—The system of task-work was adopted in slavery, many years before slavery was abolished; as far as I understood, during apprenticeship it was continued, and and ever since emancipation it was also adopted.

1116. But did you find that the same number of negroes, when paid by the task, did more work than when paid by the day?—I never had any opportunity of contrasting

contrasting it; we never had any number of negroes working in the fields by day.

1117. But you have stated that some you were in the habit of paying by the day?—We were; we paid those about the works by the day, and also the second class, who were generally performing light jobs, in covering negro houses, &c.

1118. Viscount *Howick.*] You never dug cane-holes on the estate; you managed by task?—No.

1119. *Chairman.*] How many hours' work did you receive from those who worked by the day?—They worked from about seven to five, but they did their work very leisurely out of crop.

1120. Lord *Stanley.*] What is the extent of the estate of which you had the management?—Seven hundred acres, by the estates plan referred to.

1121. Was it a level estate?—It was a remarkably fine estate; the greater part quite level; and that which was undulating was moderately so.

1122. Was it a very rich soil?—Yes, it was considered so.

1123. Without any stones or rock?—There was no stone upon the property.

1124. In what manner did you conduct the cultivation of that estate; by hoeing or by ploughing?—The planting of the canes in the island of Trinidad is totally distinct and different from any other island that I have been in; you merely make a small trench with a hoe (very light hoeing will do it), you then put in the plants in new land. In the old islands you have to dig a very considerable hole four feet square, 23 inches at the bottom, and about five inches deep.

1125. Was the cultivation carried on by the hoe or the plough?—By the hoe, entirely.

1126. How many cane-holes did you require an able-bodied labourer to make, by way of a task?—The ground which he hoed was measured by the square, 70 feet square.

1127. How many cane-holes would that be?—If taken by the acre, about 2,722 ½.

1128. How many acres make a task?—The ninth of that; about 300 of those small trenches which are dug in Trinidad.

1129. Are the Committee to understand you that for 300 cane-holes the wages would be from 1 *s.* 3 *d.* to half a dollar?—They began at 1 *s.* 3 *d.*, and rose to half a dollar; but I should here remark that holeing is principally done by jobbing gangs of Spanish peons.

1130. Viscount *Howick.*] Peons who came over from the main land?—Yes; and American refugees, or natives of Trinidad, or black Americans.

1131. Lord *Stanley.*] Did you employ a considerable number of persons of that description?—Yes.

1132. Did you find them more valuable?—For that particular work, felling trees; they were adepts at clearing the land; they cut down the trees and cleared the ground, and generally weeded it the first time, that was their work generally.

1133. Viscount *Howick.*] Is it the practice in Trinidad not to plant canes except upon ground newly opened?—We generally seek virgin soil for planting, but sometimes estates are obliged to replant the same land for lack of virgin soil.

1134. The general practice is to clear the ground, and plant the canes, and let them grow as long as they will, and the canes will grow upon the same ground, Mr. Burnley states, as long as 40 years?—The practice is to plant the canes, and if in new soil they will ratoon for 20 to 30 years, being cut every second year for that period.

1135. Lord *Stanley.*] Have the goodness to explain that system?—The double crop system has been adopted some years before slavery was abolished in Trinidad, that is, having two crops growing at the same time on the estate; that was invariably the case upon the estate that I managed. One half of the estate was what we call "stand-over canes," that is, canes of two years' standing; and in the other half there were canes of one year's standing; the canes that were planted this year were not cut till the second year after.

1136. How many years, upon the average, did the same soil remain in cane without replanting?—I suppose from 20 to 30 in South Naparima, nowhere else I should say, for there is a great diversity of soil in Trinidad.

1137. Speaking of the estate you managed?—If they are properly taken care of they stand for 20 years.

1138. What proportion of labour on the estate was occupied in the cultivation of new land, or in planting canes?—There were 20 acres planted in 1836, and

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26 acres in 1837; in the subsequent three years, from 14 to 20, about 60 to 64 acres in all.

1139. What number of acres had you in cutting upon your estate in each year?—One hundred and ninety-four acres, or thereabouts, one half of which was only with crop, every second year being stand-over.

1140. And each year you brought into cultivation somewhere about 20 acres of new land?—Yes; three years before I went out, there had been no plants put in, and the cultivation was still kept up; but I brought in the first year I went out 20 acres, and, I think, the next year 26.

1141. Did you allow a corresponding number of acres to fall out of cultivation in each year?—Not exactly corresponding, there were some of the ratoons thrown out for want of labour.

1142. What happens to the land when the ratoons are thrown out?—It is abandoned for the time.

1143. Viscount *Howick*.] And very soon covered over with bush?—Yes; you would be quite astonished, in the course of 12 months, to see the size of the trees that grow up in that abandoned soil, sometimes half as high as the ceiling of this room.

1144. Mr. *Howard*.] Does it recover its fertility?—It does ultimately.

1145. *Chairman*.] How long would it be before you returned to the same land?—It would depend upon circumstances; six years or more lying by would improve it considerably.

1146. Had you any system of allowing land to remain uncultivated for any time?—Yes.

1147. What is considered the proper time for land to rest?—There is no rule; it entirely depends upon expediency, but the longer the better.

1148. Lord *Stanley*.] In some of the colonies, the cane-holeing is considered the most laborious part of the business?—Yes.

1149. That is a portion of the labour which consumes a great part of the labour upon the estate?—Yes, a considerable part.

1150. In the estates under your management, you were almost altogether exempt from that expense?—Yes.

1151. It applied to a tenth or twentieth of the whole cultivation, and even that was light work?—Compared with the other islands, it was light work in Trinidad.

1152. You have had no personal knowledge of the system of cultivation in any of the other West India islands?—The greatest part of my life I had been in Grenada; I managed 13 or 14 estates at different times, and possessed two.

1153. Upon the estates in Trinidad, in cane-fields, the heavy expense was weeding?—Yes, it was heavy work weeding; the first and second weeding were heavy.

1154. How often was it the practice to weed the canes?—Generally twice; sometimes three times, if you could give the time and had the labour to spare. The plants must be weeded three or four times, but the cuttings not more than twice. We had not labour to weed them more.

1155. Was weeding done by task or day-work?—By task.

1156. What was the extent which a labourer was required to weed in the course of a day?—Seventy feet square.

1157. What would be the cost of weeding an acre?—Nine tasks for an acre, at half a dollar, would be four dollars and a half.

1158. You say that the canes were weeded twice a year?—They were or ought to have been. Sometimes latterly we could not even get that done; but it ought to have been done with stripping.

1159. What do you calculate the total expense of weeding an acre of canes for the year?—The total expense of weeding an acre of canes, at nine tasks to an acre, and two weedings, would be 18 tasks.

1160. That would be nine dollars to the acre?—Yes, about 30 dollars a quarree.

1161. What would be the other expenses of the cultivation of the cane-field, from the time of weeding down to the time of bringing the canes to the mill?—The canes ought to be stripped; but we have not labour to do it. The dried leaves ought to be taken off, it would improve the quality of the sugar.

1162. That is not included in the weeding?—No; as they weed they pull off some

some of the leaves, but there are [redacted] of the leaves is quite a regular wor[redacted]

1163. The next process is cu[redacted] Yes.

1164. At the same rate of [redacted] wages?—Yes; but it is often done[redacted] higher rate.

1165. Then, to nine dol[redacted]lars an acre for weeding, we are to add four dollars and a half for cutting?—Yes.

1166. What will be th[redacted] expense that you have after cutting?—In making two hogsheads a day, at th[redacted] manufactory, there are six carters, seven women in the mill, four men in the bo[redacted]iling-house, two in the distillery, two firemen, three fuel carriers, and two superintend[redacted]ents; viz., the head boiler-man and the engineer.

1167. Will you have the [redacted] goodness to tell the Committee what the amount of the day's wages of those perso[redacted]ns altogether will be?—About 1*l.* 18*s.*; the allowances are five pence at least, i[redacted]n addition to the half dollar. I have prepared a table showing the expenses, whic[redacted]h I now hand in.

Cost of Cultivating an Acre of Wood [redacted]and in *Trinidad*, on *Paradise* estate, producing Two Hogs[redacted]heads of Sugar.

	Sterling.
	£. s. d.
Clearing and planting with canes, the plants laid c[redacted]n the spot, and weeded a first time by peon labour or job-work by t[redacted]e resident labourers, at 27 dollars - - - - - - - - - - - -	5 12 6
With nine pounds of fish and one-third gallon of [redacted]rum - - - -	– 3 8
120 crook-loads of plants, say about 3,000 t[redacted]o an acre, say five tasks of leaders, when not distant - - - - - - - - - -	– 10 5
Feeding and attendance on five mul[redacted]t 4*s.* 2*d.* - - - - -	– 10 5
Cutting or juncking cane for plants, four tasks - - - - - -	– 8 4
Two subsequent weedings, requiring much cutlass work as well as hoe labour - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	2 1 8
Trenching an acre, at ten feet distance, to carry off the surface water, say 4,356 feet, at 150 feet to a task - - - - - - - - -	3 – 5
Cutting an acre, generally done by peon labour or job-work of very efficient labourers - - - - - - - - - - - -	2 10 –
Nine pounds of fish and one-third gallon of rum - - - - - -	– 3 8
Carriage of canes to mill, say six tasks of carter men; to four mule carts with one driver each, and the ox-cart with two - - - - - -	12 6 –
Feeding and attendance on 10 animals, with allowance of repairs of carts and harness, at 8*s.* 4*d.* per diem - - - - - - - - -	2 – 10
Allowance for six drivers - - - - - - - - - - -	– 2 6
One day, of 17 labourers, to manufacture two hogsheads of sugar - -	1 16 4
Common and extra allowance for extra work - - - - - -	– 8 6
One hogshead of coals and one cord of wood for engine, boiler, and sugar-pans - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	2 10 8
Carting two hogsheads to the shipping-place - - - - - -	– 12 6
TOTAL planting and manufacture - - - £.	24 17 9
Additional Expenses:	
Island duty - - - - - - - - £.1 – –	
Freight of 30 cwt. of sugar to England - - 6 – –	
Commission, insurance, and other charges - - 1 5 –	
	8 5 –

[redacted]lding One Hogshead and a half of

		Sterling.
		£. s. d.
Two weedings and a stripping, 27 tasks		2 16 2
Fish and rum for task		– 11 4
Cutting an acre by peon labour or by the job by estate labourers, 12 tasks		1 17 6
Three-fourths charge of carrying two hogsheads of sugar		2 1 8
Ditto of manufacturing ditto, as per former statement		1 12 11
Cask for ditto, say one hogshead and a tierce		1 10 –
Three-fourths charge of coals and wood, cutting and carrying		1 18 –
Ditto, carting to the shipping-place		– 18 9
	£.	13 6 4
Additional Expenses:		
Three-fourths island duty	£. – 15 –	
Three-fourths freight, say 22 ½ cwt. to England	4 10 –	
Ditto of commission, &c.	– 18 9	
		6 3 9

1168. Viscount *Howick.*] You stated that you do not use the plough?—Not in Trinidad; but in Grenada I always used it.

1169. Since the abolition of slavery, has labour been economised in any manner by the use of machinery in Trinidad?—Mule labour has been economised by the use of the steam-engine, and the labour of two or three drivers in the mule mills have been saved thereby.

1170. Do you think it is possible to adopt any such improvement?—Not further than I have stated.

1171. From what circumstances do you consider that to be impossible?—The land that I have been speaking of was land which had been lately cleared. I ought to have stated, that the estate I am now alluding to is a new estate; which has not been more than 12 or 14 years in cultivation; the estate, Harmony Hall, was, in fact, abandoned; and this is Paradise, another estate that was brought into canes from wood land; and when I say that for 20 years the ratoons will last, it is from my idea of the fertility of the soil.

1172. You have not yet explained what are the circumstances which, in your opinion, make it impossible to economise labour?—We generally leave the stumps of the trees in the ground, as they do in America, and there they remain to rot; you could not introduce the plough in such a case. There are ratoon canes in Trinidad that have been standing eight or ten years; but still the stumps are in, and frequently the trees at full length are there also.

1173. How are the canes carried to the mill?—In general, in carts; in some places, on mules' backs.

1174. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Could not steam be introduced to economise labour?—In Trinidad it would be difficult. In South Naparima there is a good deal of hilly land; it would not answer well there.

1175. Viscount *Howick.*] You have stated that, in consequence of the stumps remaining in the ground, you could not use the plough; but would it not be possible, in the process of the manufacture, to economise labour in some mode or other?—Not that I am aware of.

1176. You do not think that by the increased use of machinery, or by better contrivances, it would be possible to economise labour?—The only recent machinery which has been introduced, not upon the estates I have managed, but upon other estates I have known; among others, one of Mr. Burnley's; they have adopted machinery to elevate the expressed cane up to a certain height, and run it into the trash-house.

1177. That

1177. That is called a cane-carrier?—It is called a Megass-carrier.

1178. That has not been generally introduced?—No, it has been objected to, inasmuch as, from the height of the truck above the place into which it is pulled, the fall of this heavy substance goes with such force together as to rot the cane, and, in fact, to heat and destroy the strength of the fuel; I have never tried it myself, but a competent man told me he thought the labour that is saved in taking it to this place was equalled by the difficulty of digging it out again, because it went down with such force from the elevation of the truck.

1179. You are only the agent for the management of those estates; it is not your own property?—No.

1180. Do you think that if it was your own you would be able to introduce more improvements, and manage it in a more economical way than at present?—On Harmony Hall I do not think I could. An improvement which I intended was, to have another set of works upon the estate; the estate is large enough for that; and in place of having a long way to carry the canes, it would save expense to have another smaller set of works, and thereby to lessen the distance of carriage, and often prevent canes souring, and stoppage of crop by accidents occurring to the engine or boilers of one set of works.

1181. Do you not think that it is easier for a person to introduce improvements of that description if he is acting for himself, and not as an agent?—It may be easier in one respect, but in another respect it may be more difficult; for as agent, he may be agent for a rich person and of limited means as proprietor.

1182. How is the produce now carried to market?—By carts.

1183. What distance?—In some cases 25 miles.

1183*. On the estate which you manage?—Not more than a mile; we have a river running four or five miles to the sea.

1184. You send the sugar to the river, and there you ship it?—We ship it into a flat boat.

1185. You then carry it down in those flat boats, and put it on board the ship?—We do not do that; we deliver it to the sailors at the shipping place.

1186. Have you any road?—Yes; a fine road when it is in good order, and I believe it is now; it is a level road.

1187. In many of the estates of the island the difficulty of cartage is a great drawback, is it not?—Yes, very much so.

1188. The estate of which you have the management is more favourably situated in that respect than most of them?—Yes; very favourably situated with respect to cartage.

1189. And also with respect to receiving supplies, do they come by the same means?—Yes.

1190. What quantity of stock do you keep on the estate?—We are very fortunately situated with respect to stock on that estate; we have a pasture which is scarcely to be matched in Trinidad. My general stock has been from 20 to 25 oxen for the carts, and from 26 to 30 mules, and five or six horses to cart the produce to the shipping place.

1191. *Chairman.*] In what manner and at what time are the wages paid?—Weekly.

1192. Are they all paid in money?—The wages are paid in money.

1193. You have stated that there are two classes of labourers upon the estates?—Yes; but there are very few in the second class, not more than ten or a dozen.

1194. What was the average amount of labour per day during the last three years of slavery?—I was not in the island at that time. I speak from the estate journals. There were 80 slaves then upon the estate.

1195. What has been the amount of labour per day since the 1st of January 1839?—It is quite impossible to strike an average; there were scarcely two days alike.

1196. What number of days per week on the average did each labourer attend to work during the last three years of slavery?—Five days.

1197. What has been the average attendance of each labourer since the 1st of January 1839?—I should say (I am speaking now from recollection,) not more than three days.

1198. Can you state the difference between the two periods of slavery and freedom, with reference to the number of hours during which they worked when they did come to work?—During slavery, if they worked the whole day, it was from six to six.

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1199. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Not without intermission?—No, half an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner.

1200. *Chairman.*] In slavery did they usually work by the day, or by task?—Formerly in old times, by the day, but latterly, for many years before slavery was abolished, task-work was introduced into Trinidad; so I have heard.

1201. What number of hours do the labourers now work who work by the day?—They never work by the day but in manufacturing sugar, and they are seldom or ever at work more than from seven in the morning till five in the afternoon, and then they get extra allowances for the extra time that they work; for they reckon that they work so many more hours than the task people do, and they are therefore paid for that.

1202. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Anything over five hours they are paid for?—Yes, if they work seven hours, as they see that those who work by task never work more than five hours, they expect additional allowances.

1203. *Chairman.*] Not more money wages?—No.

1204. What number of labourers upon that plantation were slaves?—Nearly all; there were 13 strangers there when I left.

1205. What was the whole number of labourers upon the estate when you left it?—I suppose about 50 or 60.

1206. Does that include women and children?—Not children, I speak of labourers and tradesmen that were employed about the works.

1207. How many women and children were there?—I think, if I mistake not, that there were nearly an equal number of women and men, and I suppose about 25 children.

1208. Do you find that the women work readily and freely?—Yes; I think they are better workers than the men in general.

1209. Do you find that the women on your estate will do more than one task in a day?—Two or three; they frequently do two.

1210. Have you many such women?—I think three.

1211. Do you cultivate rum or coffee on your estate?—No coffee, sometimes we make rum.

1212. Do you find that the labour is less continuous than it was during slavery?—I do.

1213. What injury do you find produced in the manufacture of sugar, by the circumstance of the labour being less continuous?—Very ruinous loss and deterioration both of quality and quantity. From the slovenly manner in which the work is generally done, even from the field to the shipping of the sugar, there is almost a loss sustained in every stage of the work.

1214. Have you no control over the manner in which the work is done by withholding payment, if it is not done to your satisfaction?—We dare not attempt that, as in crop, we are much more in the power of the people than out of crop, for we have then gone to the expense which I have stated to the Committee, of cultivating the canes, and at this present moment there may be a good crop on the ground in Trinidad, but there is no certainty of getting it off.

1215. Do you mean to say that you are so much afraid of diminishing the supply of labourers by offending the labourers, that you are obliged to pay for the work whether it is well done or ill done?—In a great many instances.

1216. As you have told the Committee that all the labourers on your estate were slaves, you have had I suppose no immigrants?—Very few.

1217. Have you had any?—Yes.

1218. Since when?—I cannot exactly state the time; there were some on the estate when I left.

1219. How many?—I suppose not a dozen.

1220. Where did they come from?—There were three Africans, and the rest were from one island or another, or from other estates; we had very few from the old islands.

1221. On what terms were those immigrants hired by you?—On the same terms as the others.

1222. And they occupied houses and lands in the same way?—If they chose, they might occupy houses, but they preferred temporary lodgings. We were obliged to build barracks for those immigrants, or those itinerant people, distinct from the other people, because they would not consent to remain long enough to establish grounds.

1223. Did

1223. Did you find that they worked in any degree better than or differently from the old labourers?—I could not make any distinction.

1224. You did not enter into any contracts with them of a different nature?—Quite the contrary; I often went to the fields, and found them at work without note or comment, and I asked where they came from. And in the same way, as soon as they were paid, they absented themselves.

1225. Do you think it would be possible to reduce the quantity of cane-land now in cultivation on your estate, and gain an equal return by increased labour and skill?—By increased attention to the cane when planted, to see that it is properly kept in order; for if you do not attend to the plants, you can never expect to have good ratoons. If the plants were properly attended to, and had four or five weedings, and if the ratoons were weeded a third time and stripped, the quantity would be increased, and most unquestionably the quality would be improved. I am now speaking of Trinidad, for in the dry islands another answer would be given.

1226. In case of your diminishing the quantity of land in cultivation, and gaining an equal produce by increased skill and labour, do you suppose that the expense of cultivation would be diminished?—I do not know; if you diminished the extent of your cane-fields, possibly less labour might suffice, and you would probably have as much produce from a smaller quantity well taken care of as from a larger quantity slovenly attended to.

1227. Is your present supply of labour adequate to the cultivation of the estate?—By no means.

1228. Have you it in your power to hire now as large a number of labourers as you employed slaves during slavery?—By no means; it is quite impossible.

1229. If you employed the same number, you would not get an equal amount of labour from them?—No, not more than half.

1230. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Have you the same extent of land at present under cultivation as you had during slavery?—Not altogether.

1231. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the estates have diminished in value in Trinidad?—I do.

1232. Have they diminished not only in saleable value, but in the annual proceeds?—They have in most instances.

1233. To what extent?—I cannot exactly say; but I should consider it to be a third decrease in value in many estates.

1234. What do you consider to be the principal cause of that decrease?—Exorbitant wages now added to the expense, when slavery and apprenticeship existed; as soon as emancipation took place ample wages were paid from the first day, and they have increased every year, we not receiving by any means an equivalent for the money.

1235. What would you suggest as the best remedy for this deficiency in labour?—The first things I would suggest are wholesome laws and extensive immigration.

1236. You think those the most important?—I do think both of permanent importance.

1237. What description of laws?—I mean laws such as you have in this country between master and servant, which ought to have been passed from the first day in Trinidad.

1238. Laws for the general regulation of labour?—Yes.

1239. Can you state to the Committee what kind of regulation you would recommend?—I would recommend one part of the Ordinance that passed upon the 17th of August, namely, that all hirings that were not specific should be deemed general hirings; and in which it was stated, that in place of three months' notice, which is obliged to be given by a servant or labourer in this country, one month's notice should suffice, so that it was in fact but an engagement for one month; my own opinion is, that that would have obviated a great many difficulties which have since occurred in Trinidad; I am sure of it.

1240. Is it your opinion that some laws, in order to enforce more continuous labour, are still more essential to the prosperity of the planters than an increase in the number of labourers?—No, I do not say that, as I think the want of such laws has rendered extensive immigration more vitally important; but I say that those laws would be for the good of all classes, both the employers and the labourers. The labourers have got into habits of such desultory working, and running here and there, that it will be difficult to constrain them by equitable contract; had they at first, when they became a free population, been placed, as I recommended in the

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colony where I then resided, in the position of labourers here, much evil would have been prevented, and, I think, the whole of it.

1241. Is it your opinion that an increased number of labourers is essential?—It is, provided they are by reasonable contracts taught to labour for wages continuously, otherwise, they will wander about, and not locate themselves, just as it has been proved that the others now do.

1242. You think that no extent of immigration will be effectual unless accompanied by laws for the regulation of labour?—Certainly not half so effectual as it would otherwise be.

1243. How many more labourers do you think that the estate which you managed required?—More than double.

1244. Was the original number 80, in slavery, insufficient?—Yes, for although working contiuuously I find much peon labour was necessary to assist in the cultivation of the property.

1245. But assuming that adequate laws for the regulation of labour were passed, how many more labourers would your estate require than you now have?—Much of the estate that I had is out of cultivation; all that could be brought in; but with our present cultivation, if they worked continuously, 80 effective labourers, at five tasks per week might do it.

1246. Had you a greater extent of land in cultivation during slavery than you now have?—I do not know; I was not in the island at the time.

1247. Viscount *Chelsea*.] Do not you think that, subject to proper regulations, free labour would be more productive than slave labour?—I do.

1248. Then you would not require, if those regulations were established and carried into effect, an equal number of labourers on the estate to the number that you had during slavery?—Yes, we would fully require that, and probably more, because I do not wish that any labourer in Trinidad, of any class, no matter how efficient he is, shall do more than one task a day, and no more than five tasks a week. This wholesome regulation, which I should wish to see passed, would be to enjoin a moderate degree of labour, but nothing like force.

1249. *Chairman*.] Supposing that adequate laws were passed for the regulation of labour, would not the same quantity of land as you now cultivate be cultivated at much less expense than it was at the time of slavery?—I cannot answer that question. There were 80 slaves upon the estate that I had the charge of, but there was a vast deal of free American and peon labour used upon the estate, in addition to those. There were eight women, the *elite* of the female labourers, had reputed husbands, free settlers, who added much to our labouring strength, but who soon after the 1st of August carried those women off the property to their small settlement; thus a dozen of hands were at once lost to the property as labourers. I mention this to show the uncertainty of labour under present circumstances.

1250. Had you the management of the estate during apprenticeship?—I had.

1251. Was the extent of land in cultivation greater then than it is now?—No, it was not.

1252. Do I understand you, that the quantity which you now have in wood, unproductive of sugar, or any other crop, arises from the necessity of resting the land, or from the want of a greater supply of labour?—The quantity which I have described in brush was thrown out in fallow, and a new estate substituted.

1253. Is that land fit to be restored to cultivation?—It is.

1254. But you have not labour sufficient for it?—We have not.

1255. Do you find, with regard to your estate, that there has been much alteration in the habits and mode of life of the negroes since freedom?—With respect to the habits of the negroes, and their mode of life, it is pretty much the same as it was; they are exceedingly joyous and social; and all of them like excitement from noisy instruments, or noise of any kind, vocal or instrumental, and they employ themselves in the usual way. I do not see any difference in their mode of amusement, and those kind of things, since slavery.

1256. Have they become more or less moral in their habits?—I cannot positively answer the question further than to state, that marriages have become much more frequent.

1257. Do they attend church better than they did?—They do; they are more at leisure to attend church now than they were during slavery.

1258. Have you any school upon your estate?—No.

1259. Is there any school within reach of the labourers?—Yes; we are only three short miles from San Fernando.

1260. Do

1260. Do you find that the labourers are more willing to send their children to school than they were?—They never did attend school when slaves; they now do.

1261. Are they willing to subscribe money towards the expense of schooling?—I am not aware whether they do, but they exult very much in the idea of sending them to school; and it gratifies them very much when one of their children can read; and they do read to them frequently. There is no single instance, as far as my experience goes, in either of the two estates that I am acquainted with, of a single individual that was liberated from being under 10 years of age, since working on the estate.

1262. Has the legislature of the colony afforded any increased means of religious and moral instruction since freedom commenced?—It appears so.

1263. Have they done so in a manner to extend the benefit to your estates; do the labourers on your estates benefit by that?—The greater part of Harmony Hall children do not attend the Protestant schools; they attend the Roman-catholic church; I am not aware if there is any Roman-catholic school in that district.

1264. How many tasks a week do you find that your labourers will do now?—Some two, some one, and some none. A question was asked as to their doing more than one task a day. I have paid one woman for ten tasks for a week, and another for six tasks; and I can mention the dates.

1265. How much land do your labourers occupy with their houses?—As much as they choose to cultivate; we have almost unbounded grounds for cultivation; and that is what has kept the Harmony Hall people upon the estate, the fine ground they have with their houses. A question was asked about elderly people being maintained at the colonial expense. Elderly persons will never leave the estate that they have been slaves upon; they are scarcely ever known to do so; they remain there.

1266. Do you find that the old and infirm people are taken care of by their relations?—I have always found it so.

1267. You have not had many occasions on the Harmony Hall estate of the labourers leaving their houses and their work?—Not leaving their houses, but leaving their work.

1268. You do not eject them?—No; I have given 20 or 30 of them notice.

1269. Was the result of that that they returned to their day's labour?—They did for a day or two, but not longer. When they found that it was not only an expedient, and that I gave them notice without going any further, they did not fear it.

1270. Have you known any instance in Trinidad of any estates or plantations being purchased by negroes?—No.

1271. Do the negroes in that colony ever manufacture sugar for themselves?—No.

1272. What do they cultivate upon their own account?—They cultivate a number of vegetables and fruit; they may cultivate as much as they like; there are yams and plantains, and peas, and produce of all kinds.

1273. Do they cultivate more of those articles than they require for their own consumption?—They do; but there is one thing that I have observed since freedom, and a very peculiar thing it is, that the market is brought to their doors. They formerly used to have to carry their provisions to the market at San Fernando, a distance of three or four miles, but now the market is brought to their door. So many immigrants are introduced into the island, and they come upon the estates to purchase provisions of those who have them.

1274. Do you find that the cultivation of their land has increased or diminished since freedom?—On Harmony Hall I think it is pretty stationary; there are some who have neglected their land since freedom; there are others, again, who wish to get rich, and put money into their pocket.

1275. Do you find that many of your labourers have made money and got rich?—There are three or four.

1276. Do those who have got rich continue to work?—They do not; but such a man, when he goes out, generally works two tasks, he does not work continuously; indeed none of them do.

1277. Viscount *Chelsea*.] You have stated that children liberated in 1834 do not take to field-labour?—In no instance; my knowledge does not furnish me with a solitary instance.

1278. Is that from a feeling that field-labour is degrading?—It is, because their parents imagine they will be able to live without.

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1279. Do they take to trades?—None of them are old enough for trades. In 1834, all under 10 years were declared free; they are only just now fitted for trades; they are all at school; whenever they can get to school they will go, they are exceedingly fond of learning to read.

1280. Is that feeling which you have alluded to, as to the degrading nature of field-labour, as strong as it was?—I do not pretend to say that it is regarded as degrading, but even if children are willing to do it, the parents do not seem willing to let them do it; I do not know a single instance of their turning to field-labour. A number of them are upon the estate, of course, but a great number of free children are off the estate. There is a connexion of the negroes that is not generally known in this country; that is, as godfathers and godmothers, which is as binding as the relation of the parents themselves, and they go away to other places.

1281. They have no attachment to their own homes?—Yes, they have, and they are respectful to their parents to a degree; and, in short, the negro population, so far as I have seen them, have behaved admirably in everything but their work.

1282. *Chairman.*] Do you think that a system of leasing out houses and land to labourers would have a tendency to increase much more generally a feeling of attachment to their home?—Yes, I should suppose that it would if they were located upon the soil; they would cultivate any other thing but sugar; but really I do not think that sugar will be cultivated in any other way than by the simultaneous effort of numbers.

1283. What do you mean by the simultaneous effort of numbers?—To cut carry, and manufacture two hogsheads of sugar, it requires twelve cutters, six carters, seven women in the mill, four men in the boiling-house, two men in the distillery when making rum; two firemen and two fuel carriers, a head boiler and engineer; making 18 persons employed in cutting and carrying, and 19 in the manufacturing.

1284. Do you mean that you think there will always be a difficulty in obtaining that simultaneous effort?—No, I do not, if immigrants come; but my idea is, that a wholesome system of laws is the first thing that ought to be done for the colonies, if they are to be retained as any valuable appendage to the British Crown. I am a friend to the labourers; I avow it.

Lunæ, 9° die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Emerson Tennent.
Mr. Godson.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Hardin Burnley, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

W. H. Burnley, Esq.
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1285. *Chairman.*] DO you desire to offer any explanation of part of your evidence on a former day?—I wish to make some explanation with respect to a question put to me on Monday last, 792, whether I had calculated the necessary annual expenditure to be laid out in emigration, for the purpose of so reducing the wages as to enable the cultivation to be carried on at a profit. In this confined sense my answer is totally erroneous. My mind is always pre-occupied by the grand scheme of destroying foreign slavery, by underselling the growers of tropical produce by slave labour in the markets of Europe; and when I stated that 500 emigrants would be required annually in Trinidad, I was thinking only of an extensive system of cultivation to accomplish that object; for the mere purpose of enabling the present cultivation of the island to be carried on at a profit, I believe that an annual influx of labourers from Africa to the extent only of 1,000 adults, and that only for a few years, would be sufficient. The whole quantity of granted land

land in the colony is, in round numbers, 200,000 acres, of which less than 50,000 appear to be in cultivation; but this statement is taken from the returns on which the wood taxes are assessed, and contains no portion of the land thrown temporarily out of cultivation for the purpose of fallow. Besides, an estate, to render it complete and valuable, requires always a quantity of forest land to be attached to it, for a great variety of economical purposes; 100,000 acres may be considered as essentially necessary to enable the present proprietors to support profitably the present cultivation. There remain, therefore, only 100,000 acres for the cultivation of which an adequate number of labouring hands require to be provided; and I am satisfied that the number I have stated, of 1,000 annually, would be sufficient; for the first result of a steady regular system under government authority would be to relieve the planter of the moral panic under which he at present suffers, and at the same time convince the labourers that they would no longer have the power of exacting their own terms, which would immediately ensure more reasonable arrangements between both parties. The next result would be to diminish the practice of selling small allotments to the labourers. The planters do so at present in opposition to a principle they well understand, but with the ulterior view of gaining an advantage over the proprietors by congregating a larger number of labourers upon their own estate, and the practice would of course cease with the necessity which gave rise to it. Further we must keep on view, that any systematic plan calculated gradually to ensure steady work would virtually and effectually double the actual labouring force in the colony, by compelling the present labourers to give up their idle, dissipated habits, and work five days in the week instead of two or three. This opinion is, of course, always based upon the supposition, that all uncultivated lands, private or public, are to be effectually protected from unauthorised intruders, which, as I have before stated, can be very easily effected by a proper law and a vigilant executive; and also that the Government influence be exerted in the promotion of contracts of labour for periods of six months at least; for it is impossible to suppose that a West India colonist can ever compete with the foreign slave-owner, if he is to be deprived of the facilities which even the farmer and manufacturers in Great Britain consider to be essentially necessary to ensure profitable results. Whenever a greater density of population is created, the negroes, for their own advantage, will desire to enter into contracts; but until that period arrives, the Government influence must be exerted to promote them. I beg, therefore, to state to the Committee, that when I proposed an annual introduction of 5,000 labourers into Trinidad, it was under a misunderstanding of the question put to me, and was stated with the view of extending the cultivation of the whole island gradually, and not for the purpose only of securing the profitable cultivation of the present estates: 1,000 emigrants annually from Africa would, I believe, answer that purpose, the expense of which, at 35 dollars a head for their passages, would be 35,000 dollars annually.

1286. Mr. *Godson.*] You cannot state how many years that would require?—It is almost impossible for any person to give anything like a correct answer to that; I think myself, seeing that our present population of labourers may not exceed 10,000 or 12,000 persons, and that we have got 100,000 acres in cultivation, I should say that the same number of persons would effectually answer the purpose. But if the present labourers can be made to work doubly as well as they do now, which I think they will, then a smaller number will suffice. As I before stated to the Committee, one great facility would be introducing these people under contracts of service for 12 months. These contracts of service, containing the wages to be given by the planter, would point out to the Government regularly what was the state of the labouring population in the island; as the wages fell in these contracts, so they would find that the population was increasing; if the wages did not fall, it is very clear that they would still want more labourers.

Robert Henry Church, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

1287–1298. *Chairman.*] IN your former examination you stated that you would this day be prepared to state to the Committee the details of the cultivation of the estate with which you have been connected; will you, therefore, now be so good as to state in detail the whole cost of the cultivation and manufacture of the

R. H. Church, Esq. the produce of an acre of cane land?—The tabulary form I now present, No. 1, will give such detail.

9 May 1842.

TABLE, No. 1.

HARMONY HALL, and PARADISE Estates, in *Trinidad.*

Extent of Harmony Hall.

On my arrival in 1836:	*Acres.*	On my departure in 1841:	*Acres.*
In canes	38	In canes	3
In pasture	30	In pasture	30
In high brush	200	In high brush	193
		Abandoned for want of labour	42
Total	268	Total	268

Extent of Paradise.

In 1836:	A.	R.	P.
In canes	152	2	25
Laid out or occupied as negro grounds	55	0	0
Under estates, buildings, and yard	3	0	0
In primitive wood, never cultivated	189	1	15
Total	400	0	0

In 1841:	A.	R.	P.
In canes	125	2	25
Wood land cleared and planted since 1836	60	0	0
In negro grounds	55	0	0
In primitive wood	137	1	15
Three cane pieces left unweeded for want of labour	22	0	0
Total	400	0	0

Extent of the Estates united, 1841.

In canes	210 acres.
Pasture	30 —
Negro gardens	55 —
Primitive wood and brush, all cultivable to advantage if labour could be procured	373 —
Total	668 acres.

Slavery, Crop	1831	70½	1832	140	1833	106½
Apprenticeship, Crop	1835	138½	1836	180	1837	164
Free labour, Crop	1839	128	1840	117	1841	165

Crop 1834 - - - 175 from slave labour.
Crop 1838 - - - 156 from apprenticeship labour.

The plants and ratoons of 1834 were not cut till 1836.
Ditto - - ditto - - 1837 - ditto - 1839.
Ditto - - ditto - - 1838 - ditto - 1840.
Then the first free labour crop was that of - - 1841.

COST of CULTIVATING an Acre of WOOD or BRUSH LAND, producing 2 hhds. of Sugar.

	Tasks.	£. s. d.
Cleaning and planting with canes laid on the spot, and weeding the plants a first time, usually done by peon labourers, or job-work by the localist labourers, at 27 dollars per annum in cash at 4 *s.* 2 *d.*	27	5 12 6
One-third of an aroba of fish, say 9 *d.* and one-third of a gallon of rum	-	- 3 8
120 crook-loads of plant, about 8,000 per acre, say five mules with boys, if not distant	5	- 10 5
Which, with feeding and attendance on animals is 4 *s.* 2 *d.* per day for each	-	- 10 5
Cutting or junking canes, for plants	4	- 8 4
Two subsequent weedings, requiring much cutlass work as well as hoe labour	20	2 1 8
Trenching an acre at distances of 10 feet, to carry off the surface water, say 4,356 feet, at 150 feet to a task	29	3 - 5
Cutting an acre, generally done by peon labour or job-work, the stumps requiring much labour to branch them, at 4 *s.* 2 *d.*	12	2 10 -
One-third of an aroba of fish, and one-third of a gallon of rum	-	- 3 8
Carrying home canes for two hhds. of sugar, say five carts drawn by two mules each, or a pair of oxen, the former requiring one driver, the latter a man and boy	6	- 12 6
In the present instance only one ox-cart was employed, say	-	- 2 6
Feeding and attendance on 10 animals, with allowance for tear and wear of ox-harness, &c. which is scarcely conceivable, at 8 *s.* 4 *d.* per diem, being fed with oats, cane-tops, and molasses	-	2 - 10
Allowance for six drivers	-	- 2 6
One day of 17 labourers to manufacture 2 hhds. of sugar	17	1 15 5
Common and extra allowances for extra time, at 6 *d.*	-	- 8 6
Two hogsheads for the sugar	-	2 - -
One hhd. of coals and a cord of wood, laid down for engine-boiler and sugar-pans	3	2 10 8
Carriage and carting 2 hhds. to the shipping-place	-	- 12 6
Island duty, at 25 *s.* currency per hhd. average	-	1 - -
Freight to Europe on 30 cwt. of sugar, at 4 *s.*	-	6 - -
Commission, insurance, and other petty expenses	-	1 6 -
	123	36 13 4

N. B.—I have seen the average cost of seven estates by free labour, say 25 *s.* 6 *d.* per cwt. which is 20 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per hhd. of 15 cwt. and island expenses only calculated.

The above account of the expense of cultivation does not include the proportion of the following necessary expenditure, viz. new buildings, repair of those already erected, repairs of machinery, say to steam-engine and boiler, replacing of sugar-pans, purchase of stock, public road-tax, repairs of estate roads, erecting bridges, repairing ditto, gates and fences, medicines and medical attendance, providing hoes, cutlasses, and axes for labourers; engineers, masons, carpenters, and blacksmith's bills; new cart, chaise, and waggons, harness, &c. amounting to more than the labour account. Out of which deduct 160 gallons of molasses, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per gallon, 12 *l.*

Cash paid previous to the agent for extra labour, 85 *l.*

Cash received for wages alone on Harmony Hall estate, between the 1st August and 31st December 1838, was 208 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling, say for 2,000 tasks; and from the 12th of January to 22d December 1839, received 999 *l.* sterling, say for 9,592 tasks; divided by 128 hhds. the crop made gives 74 ½ tasks to a hogshead.

SUPPLIES of 1839, excluding Charge of Labour.

	£. s. d.
9 ½ hhds. of salt fish	90 - -
3 barrels pork	17 - -
1 puncheon bread	5 - -
2 barrels ditto	2 1 8
2 ½ ditto salt	1 17 4 ½
1 hhd. oats	6 13 4
	£. 122 12 4 ½

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	£.	s.	d.
4 horses	83	6	8
3 cows and one calf (the cows for draught)	24	8	–
4 draught oxen	50	12	–
8 mules	153	6	8
Expenses in Town	2	11	5
16 m. 300 board and plank	98	15	7
Sundry articles, say oil, truss-hoops, skimmers, mill grease, cordage, cutlasses, coals, nails, lime, &c.	149	18	–
	592	18	4
Salaries and tradesmen's bills for different jobs	616	13	4
Duties and	117	3	–
£.	1,326	14	8

In the five last months of the year 1840, I find an average of 97 *l.* 18 *s.* sterling, paid for labour per month, which would be 1,174 *l.* 16 *s.* per annum; and the three months before I left in 1841, 132 *l.* 14 *s.* per month was paid, say 1,592 *l.* 8*s.* per annum.

In 1840 there were 117 hhds. of sugar made at 10 *l.* sterling for wages alone. In 1841, there were 165 hhds. made at 9 *l.* 14 *s.* for labour alone.

In 1840 and 1841 plantations sold at 4 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling per hundred, broken from the stalk, and counted perhaps half a cwt.

Laid out for free and extra labour in 1837	£. 49	3	–
Ditto ditto 1838	86	–	–

CULTIVATING an Acre of RATOON CANES, yielding 1 ½ hhd.

	Tasks.	£.	s.	d.
Two weedings and a stripping, say	27	2	16	2
Fish and rum, per task, at 6 *d.*	–	–	11	4
Cutting an acre of ratoon canes by peon labour, or by the job, by estates' people at 4 *s.* 2 *d.*	12	1	17	6
Three-fourths of the charge of carrying 2 hhds.	4 ½	2	1	10 ½
Three-fourths of the charge of manufacturing 2 ditto	12 ¾	1	12	11 ¼
Casks for ditto	–	1	10	–
Three-fourths of the charge for coals and wood for making 2 hhds.	2 ¼	1	18	–
Three-fourths ditto of carting the same to shipping-place	–	–	9	4 ½
Three-fourths duty on 2 hhds.	–	–	15	–
Three-fourths freight	–	4	10	–
Ditto of petty charges, commission, insurance, &c.	–	–	18	9
	58 ½	18	19	11 ½

Average cost of cultivating an acre of plants and one of ratoons, say 2 acres £. 27 16 7 ½

35 ⅛ tasks daily, five days in the week, is 9,132 per annum, which at 2 *s.* 1 *d.* per task amounts to 951 *l.* sterling.

1299. Are two hogsheads of sugar the quantity that you uniformly expect to make from an acre of plant land; is that the average?—In favourable seasons it may give more.

1300. Are 19 hands the full quantity of labour that you require in the manufacture of two hogsheads of sugar in the day?—That is answered in table, No. 1.

1301. Cannot they use up old casks; must you always have new casks?—We require very excellent casks in Trinidad.

1302. Do you use new casks always?—Yes; or new packs from England.

1303. What is the weight of sugar in your hogsheads?—I suppose, in Trinidad, from 16 cwt. to 18 cwt.; but it drains greatly before it comes home.

1304-5. Now,

1304–5. Now, let me ask, as a separate question, what would be the island duty on two hogsheads of sugar, supposing it to be exported; what would be the freight of those two hogsheads of sugar to England?—That is answered in table, No. 1.

1306. How many acres of plant land do you annually bring into cultivation at the cost which you have now stated?—We planted 20 acres in 1836, and 26 in 1837, and in the next three years from 14 to 16 more; but a great part of the latter were only hoed once, whilst the remainder failed altogether, and were obliged to be re-planted at an additional cost, for want of labour to attend to them.

1307. How many acres of ratoon land have you annually had in cultivation during five years?—There were from 60 to 62 acres of new land brought in, and about the same quantity totally abandoned, or remaining unweeded for two years, when I left in 1841.

1308. Am I to infer, from the answer you have now given, that you have been gradually, for the last five years, extending the quantity of land in cane cultivation?—Certainly not.

1309. Have you gradually allowed a quantity of land to be abandoned which is nearly equivalent to the quantity of plant land you have brought into cultivation?—Yes, abandoned or left unweeded, as just stated; but had we had sufficient labour we could have preserved the greater part in canes.

1310. State to the Committee, in detail, the cost of the cultivation and manufacture of the produce of the ratoon land, as you have already done that of the cane land?—That is answered in table, No. 1.

1311. Is 1½ hogshead the average produce of an acre of ratoon land?—Yes.

1312. The peon labourer is the labourer that comes in from the Spanish Main?—Yes, or natives of Trinidad, and black American pensioners.

1313. Do they not work by the task?—No.

1314. Do they work by the day?—No; invariably by the job.

1315. What is the difference between the job and the task?—The one by the carrée or acre, and the other is 70 feet square, more or less.

1316. Do you consider, in point of money value, the cost of the two descriptions of labour come to the same thing?—By no means, and for this reason, that we are getting extra labour; where we cannot do it with our own people. We have not enough to carry on the other works of the estate, and these people are over and above what we deem advantageous.

1317. Then your calculation is founded on the fact, that in each case of an acre you have a certain quantity of labour from located labourers, and the rest made up by peons?—Yes, after our located labourers perform their five hours' task; or when they are not disposed to labour by task we give them piece work, which they perform when finished task, or of a Saturday.

1318. What is the allowance on the cutting?—You will find that in table, No. 1.

1319. That is the whole expense for an acre of ratoon land?—Yes.

1320. What is the total of that?—The table, No. 1, will show. You will observe, at the same time, this cost I have stated is not one-half of the cost of making sugar; the labour of an estate is from 1,000*l.* to 1,200*l.* sterling, and the total expenses are upwards of 2,200*l.*

1321. In this return you have included the wear and tear of carts?—Yes; but I did not include the purchase of mules and the expense of these carts; we pay 80 dollars for a cart. I look upon the statement I have given you as not half the cost of cultivation.

1322. In what does the remaining cost consist?—The remaining cost consists of the wages of white servants, tradesmen's bills, replacing coppers, repairing engine, and replacing steam-boiler at a very great expense. Then there is medicine and medical attendance; the purchase of stock; the repairs of estates roads; there is a public road-tax, and a very heavy one; the repairs, gates, fences, and many other things; I have them all down. The total amount is much larger than the wages you pay in cultivation.

1323. Do all these items of expenditure apply to the cultivation of sugar?—Yes, the whole.

1324–26. Mr. *Godson.*] You first gave us the average cost of producing plants, and then the average cost of cultivating ratoons, when they produced one hogs-

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head and a half the acre; do all your ratoons produce one hogshead and a half?—They do; they ought, if sufficiently attended to.

1327. Whether they are 19 years old, or whether they are only two years old?—Yes, they do on an average, under proper cultivation.

1328. Mr. *Bankes.*] That depends on the mode of cultivation?—Yes, getting all the cultivation they require.

1329. In point of fact, were these of which you have been speaking on this estate in a proper state of cultivation?—During the apprenticeship, and up to 1st August 1838, the cultivation had been pretty well attended to; but from that date to 31st December, a period of 111 days, 74 labourers, still enjoying houses, grounds, &c. on the property, worked 2981 days' labour or tasks out of 8140, say five tasks per week, which they ought to have done in but little more than one-third time; and from 1st January to 30th April 1839, during a splendid crop season, out of 4320 days' labour or tasks, 2884 were only performed, whereby an estimated loss of 122 hogsheads of sugar was sustained; cultivated by apprentice labour, there being only 128 made although there were ample canes for 250.

1330. *Chairman.*] With respect to these quantities you have stated, 160 acres of ratoon, and an addition of 12 acres of new plant land, have you had sufficient labour to keep up that quantity of cane land, so as to produce the quantities you have stated?—We have not had labour sufficient to keep it by any means in a proper state of cultivation, as just stated.

1331. Have they been productive of the quantities you have stated?—Those cut produced pretty well as in 1839; 22 acres made 60 hogsheads of sugar.

1332. Has the average produce, up to the time you left Trinidad, of your 160 acres of ratoon land been 1½ hogshead per acre?—The quantity we cut may have done so; but we left one-half uncut for deficiency of labour; as I have just stated, we made 128 out of 250 hogsheads.

1333. Your opinion of the quantity you might have made, was, I presume, founded on the appearance of the crop of canes?—It was so estimated by others.

1334. What was the cause of the disappointment?—Want of labour decidedly; it was as fine a crop season as ever was; there was scarcely a shower throughout the crop of 1839.

1335. Mr. *Barclay.*] There was no other cause?—No other cause. That crop could have been taken off and shipped if we had had labour.

1336. Could you not obtain labour at any price?—We had labourers enough on the estate to take it off if they had worked; they did not complain of wages.

1337. *Chairman.*] In the details you have given us of the cost of cultivation, you have not stated anything for manure; have you any occasion to use manure in that part of Trinidad?—We never used any.

1338. Why do you not?—For want of labour, as some of the canes would have been the better for it.

1339. Do you fail to use manure from want of labour, or does the natural fertility of the land make it unnecessary?—There are some parts of the ratoon canes I would manure to keep them in proper fertility, but we had no labour to carry out manure.

1340. And when you stated that 1½ hogshead per acre was the produce of the ratoon land, you intended that would be the produce of the whole of your ratoon land, supposing you had labour to cultivate them sufficiently?—Unquestionably, and to take care of it effectually.

1341. Practically, from want of labour, you have not been able to get that quantity from the ratoon land?—Certainly not.

1342. Have you been able to get the full quantity of two hogsheads per acre from the plant land?—We have; from those properly attended sometimes more.

1343. Is it your opinion, that if labour could be rendered more continuous, that the planters in Trinidad could afford to pay the present rate of wages?—Perhaps they might on fertile estates, on poor ones they could not; but in no case could they afford it unless by continuous labour in crop they were assured of getting off the crop so cultivated, and a fair equivalent in labour for the wages paid; which at present cannot be obtained from a ruinous competition of employers, if one lowers the extent of task, another must conform or risk the loss of his labourers.

1344. Mr. *Barclay.*] Half a dollar per task?—Yes, under the circumstances and provisos stated.

1345. *Chairman.*] You have stated that your present amount of labour is sufficient for the quantity of land that you now have in cultivation, provided you could make

make that labour continuous?—I should suppose 300 tasks per week would be sufficient.

1346. Do you mean the whole estate, or that part now in cultivation?—I mean what I have now in cultivation.

1347. Would you not bring a considerable portion of the land, now in primitive wood and brushwood, into cultivation, if you had more labour?—Unquestionably.

1348. Suppose you were to cultivate as many acres on the Harmony Hall and Paradise estates as are fit for cultivation, how many labourers should you then require?—I suppose about 120 at least, perhaps more; 600 tasks per week might do.

1349. Is it now impossible to get that number?—It is; as far as my judgment goes, it is morally impossible.

1350. You are only deterred by want of labour from extending the cultivation of those estates?—Most undoubtedly. There is an abandoned set of works on Harmony Hall, which it was always the intention of the proprietor to resuscitate or place in a more convenient situation.

1351. Mr. *V. Smith.*] You said just now, you could have raised much larger crops in one year by means of the labourers you had, if you could have got them to work?—Yes; I suppose it is meant continuously.

1352. What inducements did you offer them to work?—The highest wages, every allowance, and their houses and grounds; there was scarcely a stranger upon the estate. The wages increased from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.*, with allowances.

1353. Did you offer them an increase of wages, and did they decline to work on any increase of wages?—They declined to work; they were getting the half dollar a day, and they did not demand higher wages for tasks; they sometimes got more by the job.

1354. *Chairman.*] Did you ever try a higher rate of wages than half a dollar?—I did not, as I was convinced that increase of wages rendered them more indisposed to labour. This was no hypothesis, but an irrefragible fact; the more money the less work.

1355. Mr. *V. Smith.*] Who were the persons you define as labourers on the estate unwilling to work?—

1356. *Chairman.*] You stated, if I recollect rightly, that the located labourers worked by the task, and the peon labourers by the acre?—Yes.

1357. How much money would the peon labourer, working by the acre, make per day?—About a dollar.

1358. How many hours would they work continuously?—I suppose the peons are here meant; they were also capricious, but I have seen them in the field before six o'clock, and often until dark; but they generally retired to their hammocks in the middle of the day.

1359. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] With so good a prospect of a good crop as you have told us you had, would it not have answered your purpose to make so great an advance to the labourers as to induce them to work?—We could not get them to work if we had.

1360. Do you anticipate, if you had a number of emigrants, say about 120, that you would have to pay them the same price as that you have been paying, of half a dollar a day?—At present there is no help for it; but a sufficient number of immigrants would, I should suppose, lower wages.

1361. What would you expect to have to pay in such a case?—I should suppose 1*s.* 8*d.* without allowance, for a five hours' task, ample here.

1362. Mr. *Godson.*] You spoke of buildings at Harmony Hall being abandoned; in what year was that?—In 1829.

1363. *Chairman.*] In 1839, when you were unable for want of labour to bring all your canes to perfection, you were, I presume, spared the expense of carrying and manufacturing all that you were not able to make?—By apprentice labour in 1837 and 1838, with the assistance of peons, we were enabled to bring our canes to perfection for the crop of 1839, which was estimated at 250 hogsheads, as I have before stated; but could only get 128 taken off from the determination of the located labourers not to work. As they idle with less than half time, we were only spared the expense of cutting, carriage, and manufacturing.

1364. With respect to those of which you could not get the produce, had you incurred the expense of double weeding?—The whole.

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1365. You had incurred all the expenses on the whole estate up to the cutting?—The whole.

1366. Mr. *Barclay.*] I think you stated that, provided you had sufficient labour, you could afford to pay labourers half a dollar a task?—Yes, provided we got ample crops taken off.

1367. Is that calculation made on the present price of sugar in England?—It is not made on the present price of sugar; it is made on the difficulty of getting labourers.

1368. Does not the price of labour depend on the price for which you can sell your produce?—No; sugars may not bring 50 *s.* per cwt. here, and yet the labourers will not take less than half a dollar.

1369. The cost of labour in Trinidad is not regulated by the price at which your produce sells?—No, it varies at the caprice of both parties.

1370. Suppose a great reduction took place in the price of sugar in England, would not that cause a reduction in the price of labour in Trinidad?—Not under the present circumstances; and until the employers' means totally failed.

1371. Have you introduced machinery on your estates; ploughs?—There are no ploughs in Trinidad, to my knowledge.

1372. Have you tried horse-hoeing?—No, the stumps are left in the ground to rot, as in America; and often very large trees also.

1373. Then you have not made any decided attempts in improving the cultivation of the land by machinery?—No; my own opinion is, that some years must elapse before the plough can be used in Trinidad to good effect.

1374. I suppose the stumps could not be removed except at a great deal of expense?—Planters have done it formerly, but have not labour now.

1375. Suppose those stumps were removed, the plough could then be used?—The plough could not be well used in Trinidad; in the flat ground the drains and trenches would impede it greatly, and in the hilly land it would not answer.

1376. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] You said, supposing there were 1,000 labourers imported into the country in the year, and suppose the second year there was another 1,000, and then the black population thought fit to work themselves, what would become of those 2,000 emigrants?—If the present labouring population would work continuously at five tasks per week 5,000 immigrants would meet with instant employment on the 180 estates said to be in present cultivation; but if many of our native labourers become small settlers, a very probable event, 10,000 would not want employers on their arrival, if their services could be secured by equitable contracts.

1377. Mr. *V. Stuart.*] Would the 2,000 find no employment?—They would; instant employment; 5,000 would find employment.

1378. After the others had returned to labour?—If our native labourers once become small settlers they will not return to continuous labour; if at a distance from sugar estates the state of the by-roads and Indian paths (as they are called) in the rainy season will prevent them; the men may assist in crop, but they will prevent the females coming to the estate if once removed from it, unless to job-work in families, which will, I think, still prevail to a certain extent.

1379. Upon the present estates?—Yes, although four or five have been latterly abandoned in the neighbourhood of where I dwelt.

1380. Mr. *Godson.*] What would be the amount of acreage of those estates?—Three hundred and twenty acres, generally speaking; that is the size of an estate in Trinidad, many are more extensive.

1381. When you speak of those four or five that are abandoned, do you mean that four or five of that average amount have been abandoned?—Yes.

1382. *Chairman.*] What would you say would be the effect on your own estates, of an extensive addition in number of labourers; should you bring fresh land into cultivation, or should you trust to the competition of those increased numbers to decrease wages?—It is a serious consideration; there is a great deal of virgin soil on Paradise that would be very productive.

1383. When you talk of the labourers settling themselves on fresh land, do you contemplate their purchasing land, or their squatting without permission on lands hitherto uncultivated?—I contemplate their purchasing land.

1384. Has that taken place to any great extent, to your knowledge, in Trinidad?—Not to any great extent.

1385. And

1385. And where you have known it to take place, what extent of land has been purchased by individual labourers?—

1386. Could the negro live independent on the produce of an acre, after he purchased it?—Perfectly so.

1387. At what rate would he have to purchase?— an acre.

1388. In addition to that, would he have to defray the cost of building a house?—Yes.

1389. What would that cost?—From 20 to 30 dollars; there is the wood on the spot; in fact, he would build it himself without employing any other person whatever.

1390. Would that acre of land enable him to take produce to market without depriving him of the provision he would require for his own use?—It would.

1391. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] What price do you anticipate you would have to pay labourers imported?—I cannot say; it is half a dollar at present.

1392. Mr. *V. Smith.*] You have stated to the Committee that the benefit you anticipate to your estate from emigration was the cultivation of it at a cheaper rate; what reduction of wages do you anticipate will enable you to pursue such cultivation?—One shilling and eight-pence without allowances.

1393. *Chairman.*] How much do you reckon half a dollar to be in sterling now?—Two shillings and one penny.

1394. Mr. *V. Smith.*] You think you should have a reduction from 2*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*, to cultivate the estates properly?—Yes, with all the present allowances.

1395. You stated before, that if the labour was continuous, you could afford to give them half a dollar?—Not with what they enjoy on the estate; I am obliged to do it. I look upon half a dollar as extravagant wages.

1396. Mr. *Barclay.*] You stated that four or five plantations had been abandoned in consequence of the scarcity of labour?—Abandoned during the apprenticeship.

1397. That applies to one district only?—During slavery there was not half labour enough; to 215 estates there were only 11,000 labourers; that was nothing like being handed.

1398. Can you give the Committee any idea of the number of plantations abandoned since slavery?—I know of four or five, but think there are many more.

1399. Do you entertain any apprehension that more estates will be abandoned?—I do.

1400. For what reason?—For want of labour to cultivate them.

1401. The cultivation of cocoa has much increased in the island?—I do not know anything of it.

1402. *Chairman.*] Have you formed any opinion, or have you the means, as to what extent additional labour on your estates would reduce wages to the amount you have mentioned?—If those emigrants were placed on an estate under contract, any contract, if it was but for a month, or 12 months with a month's notice, the same as in this country; I think double the number would do it on the estates I lately directed, and from 8,000 to 10,000 would operate in like manner on the present cane cultivation of the colony.

1403. Can you furnish the Committee with a comparative statement of the produce of sugar of Harmony Hall and Paradise, during the last three years of slavery, the three years of apprenticeship, and since the commencement of freedom?—Yes; they were as follows:

Slavery:		Apprenticeship:		Freedom:	
Crop.	Hhds.	Crop.	Hhds.	Crop.	Hhds.
1831	70	1835	138½	1839	128
1832	140	1836	180	1840	121
1833	106½	1837	164	1841	161

N.B.—A large quantity of stand-over canes left uncut in 1840, with a very fine crop season of unusual length in 1841, accounts for the crop of that year exceeding the two preceding ones.

1404. Do you know how many acres were in cane cultivation during the last three years of slavery?—I do not recollect, but in 1836 there were 180 acres.

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1405. Do you know how many acres of land were in cane cultivation during the years 1835, 1836, and 1837?—Yes.

1406. How many were there?—In 1836 20 acres were planted, which were cut in 1838, and in 1837 there were 26 acres put in, cut in 1839 but the labour bestowed on these plants obliged us to greatly neglect or abandon a corresponding quantity of ratoons; we had not sufficient labour to attend to this land which was put in under the firm persuasion that the apprenticeship would exist until 1840.

1407. Under the operation of the apprenticeship, in 1837, was not labour continuous?—It was equally so with the two former years, but there was on the whole much less labour done than during slavery, when all labour delinquencies were summarily adjusted; latterly much time was lost in referring such matters to the stipendiary magistrate; and in crop the slaves generally worked 15 hours at least in the work, the apprentices never more than 12; the field tasks were equal, but some extra jobs (in attendance on estates' stock, &c.) were performed by the slaves after the tasks were finished, whilst in apprenticeship.

1408. How do you account for the produce in the year 1837, which is the last year of apprenticeship, and the year 1841, when you state you suffered so much from want of labour, being so nearly the same in those two years?—My answer to question 1403, in tabulary form, will fully explain it.

1409. Mr. *Godson.*] How many plants were put in between 1837 and 1841?—From 14 to 18 acres.

1410. Mr. *V. Stuart.*] You stated that the negro could buy an acre of ground for 10 dollars?—I beg leave to correct myself; in very interior location he might for 20 dollars.

1411. Is there a great facility in negroes getting property there?—There is not the least difficulty in a negro buying land at this moment in Trinidad, who has the means to do it.

1412. Have Government any regulations as to the sale of land, the price of land, and the quantity?—Yes, but then, like other Trinidad regulations, they are seldom enforced.

1413. Do you apprehend, if there was any considerable emigration, you might lose the good effects of it from the facility with which they might obtain land?—Not if the general hiring system in force in this country, in the absence of special contracts, were encouraged in Trinidad. A labourer often quits in a moment of irritation, that would remain stationary on a week or a month's reflection; had the salutary ordinances early passed in Trinidad on the change of colonial society not been protested against and rendered inoperative by judicial authority, and its sanction withheld to the orders in council that soon followed, all might have gone on well and much to the advantage of both parties.

1414. Have not the proprietors thought it a wise thing among themselves to make arrangements to prevent that?—It would appear from recent accounts that a contrary line of conduct is in operation; some proprietors have commenced selling estates in small parcels at exorbitant prices; I fancy with a view to approximate labour to their cultivated properties.

1415. You are speaking now of their being located on a particular estate with a view to labouring; my question rather applies to the purchase of land?—I am now referring to the purchase of land. In my reply to question 1414, I meant the purchase of land.

1416. You consider that very much against the interest of the proprietors?—I do; but some proprietors are obliged to do it from want of means to do anything with their estates. Others do it for their advantage; they think by congregating the people near the place they will get some labour from them, although at the expense of another property.

1417. Mr. *Barclay.*] Do you anticipate a larger crop on your estate this year?—No.

1418. Do you anticipate any difficulty in getting off the crop?—I have not been there since April 12 months.

1419. *Chairman.*] You stated this morning that four or five estates had been abandoned?—Yes.

1420. When did that take place, before freedom?—Yes.

1421. Was it during apprenticeship?—Yes.

1422. Were they all abandoned during apprenticeship?—They were.

1423. Have you ever filled any public situation in the island of Trinidad?—Never.

1424. Are

1424. Are you aware of the great increase in the last ten years in the revenues of Trinidad?—I am. *R. H. Church*, Esq. 9 May 1842.

1425. Do you consider that increase of revenue is any proof of increased prosperity?—It is a proof of the increased prosperity of the peasantry; the wants of the peasantry and their requirements that produce in a great measure the increase of import.

1426. But you think there has been great increase of distress and difficulty simultaneously among the planters?—I think so; with numbers I am sure it has been progressive since freedom, and I believe few if any are exempt; the extraordinary amount of imports are not all for Trinidad consumption; a large proportion is re-exported to the Spanish Main; an extensive system of barter is carried on; mules, oxen, and small stock, cotton, hides, and many articles of provision are brought in and dry goods taken in return.

1427. Is that the case now more than it used to be some years ago?—I think it is less; it was to an enormous degree formerly.

1428–9. The re-exporting to the Spanish Main took place to a greater extent some years ago than it has done lately?—I think it did, but my residence in Trinidad has been too recent to speak decidedly.

1430. Mr. *Godson.*] I want to bring your attention to the year 1841; was that what you call in Trinidad the first year of freedom; the whole of the produce of which would come from freedom?—Yes, the whole of it came from freedom.

1431. Was the year 1841 a peculiarly fine season for taking off the crop?—It was very fine until the 6th of April, when I left, and I believe continued so longer than the usual period of crop in Trinidad.

Jovis, 12° die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Godson.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Howard.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Emerson Tennent.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Sharpe, Esq. called in; and Examined. BARBADOS.

1432. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the Island of Barbadoes?—I am. *W. Sharpe*, Esq 12 May 1842.

1433. During what period of time have you resided there?—During the greater part of my life.

1434. What has been your occupation in the island?—I have been engaged in agriculture.

1435. Were you the proprietor of any estates, or had you the charge of estates?—I am a proprietor of four sugar estates, and have represented, at various times, many absent proprietors.

1436. Had you the sole or the principal management of any one or more of those estates?—I managed the one I live on, and the rest were subject to my personal inspection and superintendence.

1437. What was the extent of that estate?—Three hundred and nine acres.

1438. Was the whole of that 309 acres in cultivation?—Yes, with the exception of the land that was occupied by the negroes, and what the building stood on, ravines, ponds, and so on.

1439. Had you any portion of those 309 acres which was occupied by what they called either primitive wood or brush land?—There was a small part of it which was a ravine, but there was no primitive wood on it; there was a little brush which the labourers used for fuel.

1440. Was there any portion of the estate left to rest, in order to restore its fertility?—No.

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1441. What are the productions of Barbadoes?—Sugar and rum, ginger, aloes, arrowroot, and cotton; cotton is nearly out of cultivation.

1442. Which of those articles do you produce upon your estate?—Sugar and rum.

1443. What is the extent of the colony of Barbadoes?—It is estimated to be 21 miles in length, by 14 in width.

1444. How much of that extent is in cultivation?—The whole island is in cultivation, as far as it is capable of yielding a return.

1445. Is there any considerable portion of the island which is not capable of yielding a return?—No; but it varies considerably in fertility.

1446. For the most part, the whole of the island is fertile?—For the most part it is. In speaking of the Island, we generally say that the whole of it is under cultivation; all the land in the island is portioned out to the proprietors.

1447. How many acres does the island contain?—I think it is 104,000.

1448. What is the population of Barbadoes?—There has not been any census taken since the last registration of slaves.

1449. When did that registration take place?—It was the year of the abolition of slavery.

1450. Can you tell the population of the island at that time?—The slave population was a little above 83,000.

1451. Have you reason to think that the number has materially altered since?—I do not think there are so many in the island now as there were at that time.

1452. What do you think have been the causes of the diminution of the number?—It is to be attributed partly to emigration, and in part to the death of children, which happened shortly after the apprenticeship system was given up, the parents were so jealous of their newly acquired state, that they would not allow those children who were declared free at the commencement of the apprenticeship, to remain on the estates under the same care they had formerly enjoyed in hospitals and nurseries, with persons to attend them, but carried them away, and distributed them amongst their friends and families, and I know that many died, I believe from want of care; one particular instance happened on the estate where I resided; a women had three children, and was about removing them; she was called before me, and I advised her not to go, and told her I would take care of them as I had hitherto done; she said she must take them to her family; soon after, two of them died, and she brought the third back to me, but in such a state of ill health, that it died soon afterwards; that was an extreme case, but many to my knowledge died.

1453. Do you attribute in any material degree the diminution of population to the death of the children after the termination of slavery?—I think that has been one of the causes of it.

1454. And the cause of the death of those children was want of care?—That is my opinion.

1455. Have you in Barbadoes any law or ordinance for the regulation of the relations between employers and labourers?—There is a contract law to regulate those things, but the labourers will not agree to enter into contracts; the only agreement they will make is to work from day to day.

1456. Then practically that contract law is inoperative?—It is.

1457. Have you any contracts in operation between the masters and the labourers with regard to the occupation of their houses and premises, and the rents they pay?—There is no contract; there is a verbal agreement.

1458. Have you ever any occasion to resort to means for ejectment from houses and premises occupied by labourers?—Sometimes we are placed under that necessity.

1459. What are those means?—Complaint to the special magistrate of the district.

1460. Do you find that sufficient?—In the event of his decision not being satisfactory to the parties, a further application is made to the Court of Appeal, and as the last resort, it may be carried before the court over which his Excellency the Governor presides in person.

1461. Is it found that usually the decision of the magistrate is sufficient?—It is. There are occasions in which appeals are carried forward; but generally speaking, I think, it is considered that the magistrate's decision is sufficient.

1462. How are disputes settled between labourers and employers with regard to their work?—In the same manner, by application to the police magistrate of the district.

1463. Have

1463. Have the labourers employed on your estate houses and lands belonging to the estate?—Yes.

1464. On what terms?—The house is rent free. Where they have land they pay for it. They seldom have more than a quarter of an acre, for which, in the fertile parts of the country, they pay about 8*d.* sterling per week, which payment is deducted out of their weekly wages. In the less fertile parts of the country it is less than that, and where the quantity held by the labourer is under a quarter of an acre, no rent is exacted for it.

1465. Is it not usual for them to occupy a larger quantity than a quarter of an acre?—An acre, sometimes.

1466. In the event of an acre being occupied, what is the rent?—After the same rate; it is four times as much as for a quarter.

1467. Is not the rent regulated by a written contract between the parties?—The labourer will not enter into any written contract; he will only agree for a day, and as his agreement extends only for a day, no agreement that the employer enters into exceeds that time, it is co-extensive.

1468. Do you find practically, that the effect of the payment of rent by the labourer, is to give him an attachment to the soil that he occupies, and make him unwilling to leave the estate?—I expected that result, but recent circumstances have proved that it has not had that effect. I mean by recent circumstances the emigration to a considerable extent which took place under particular circumstances, where they were induced to leave the country under the temptation of obtaining much higher wages, and being placed in a situation where they would become quickly rich.

1469. Without reference to emigration, do you find that the effect of that system of rents is to produce an unwillingness to migrate from one estate to another within the colony?—Yes; I think it does tend to give them an attachment to the place.

1470. How long has that system of rents been in operation?—If I speak for myself, it commenced during the apprenticeship system. I believe I was one of the first planters who commenced it.

1471. Do you make it a part of your agreement with the labourers that they shall only continue in the occupation of those premises so long as they continue to work for you upon the estate?—I do.

1472. Do you immediately proceed to eject any labourer who leaves his work?—Not immediately; time is given to him to return, and we try by persuasion to bring him back; but if he persists in it, and is obstinate, and will not come back, do all you can, legal measures are resorted to to eject him.

1473. Under the operation of this system, have you practically had to complain to any extent of labourers migrating from your estate, and seeking employment upon other properties?—I have had to complain that they have gone to another estate, with the inducement of a trifling advance of wages, leaving my employment at a time when their services were much wanted.

1474. Have they done that in many cases?—Frequently.

1475. Have you in most cases been able to induce them to return?—I have induced them to return, but I have not been able to make them comply with the engagement to the fullest extent.

1476. In cases of ejectment what is the practice with regard to the crops which may be upon the land occupied by the labourer?—If I am obliged to eject him from the land, it is optional with the labourer either to take his crop off or to have it appraised, the appraiser to be appointed by the parties mutually interested. If they do not agree about the appraisement the special magistrate of the district is applied to, and he nominates an appraiser, and each party must stand to that appraisement. If the labourer leaves the land himself he must take his crop off within 48 hours. When the crop is appraised the employer loses it altogether, for being in detached pieces it is a total loss to him, and therefore if it is from the caprice of the labourer that he leaves the land, he, the labourer, must take it off; but if it be from caprice in the employer, in that case we consider that it would be a hardship upon the labourer that he should not have the full value of it, and then the employer must take it at the appraisement.

1477. So that the labourer suffers no hardship in either case?—No.

1478. What is the nature of the crops which the labourers usually grow upon their plots of land?—All the productions of the country; sugar cane is one, and they derive considerable profit from the cultivation of it; and they are allowed

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to rear pigs, sheep, and poultry of every description, out of which they make a large profit.

1479. In the case of the labourer growing sugar, in the manner you have described, how does he manufacture his sugar?—It is manufactured at the estates' works, and the estate takes from the labourer the same proportion to cover the expenses that it would receive from any other freeman who cultivated land. It is customary in the island for persons having small pieces of land upon which they grow sugar canes, to apply to the neighbouring estate to reap them, and they give one-third of the sugar and rum to the proprietor of the estate for the reaping and curing, and the same plan is adopted towards the labourers.

1480. Beyond that assistance in reaping and manufacturing, for which one-third of the produce is taken as a consideration by the proprietor, does the proprietor give any other aid to the labourer in his production of his sugar?—I do not recollect any.

1481. Upon the system you have described, is the labourer enabled to make any considerable profit from produce so grown?—He derives considerable profit from his land in provisions, and in growing a crop of canes; there is a cropping system adopted in that country, so that one crop grows under another, and whilst he is growing his canes he has a crop of provisions on the same field.

1482. Can the small holders who occupy only a quarter of an acre grow anything besides provisions?—Many of them prefer growing sugar canes where the soil is productive.

1483. You have stated that some of those labourers occupy a quarter of an acre, and that others hold as much as an acre; what is the average quantity they hold?—It very seldom exceeds a quarter of an acre.

1484. In the event of labourers leaving their holdings, what notice is there between the parties?—The labourer gives no notice, he is off directly, and he will quit you at an instant's notice; the employer gives 48 hours' notice, that is the custom; there is no law that I know of to regulate it, but the magistrates act upon it from custom.

1485. What wages do you pay the labourers?—It varies according to the ability of the person to perform a day's work. Very few children will engage in work by the day, but if they do, they receive about 5*d.* sterling; it is a coin in the colony called a bit; and as high as 15*d.* is given for some particular kinds of work of the most laborious description. Not many receive that, but I should say that about 10*d.* sterling is the average for fair working people.

1486. Have they any allowances beyond that money payment?—They have occasionally refreshment, rum and water and molasses, provisions, and sometimes presents of salt pork and fish.

1487. But no definite allowances of any kind?—No, all the engagements are in money wages; every thing else may be given or not.

1488. In the answer you have now given, are you speaking of field labourers who work at sugar?—Those who cultivate the soil and manufacture the sugar.

1489. Are the wages of those employed within the works and buildings higher than you have described?—That is one of the exceptions for which a higher rate of wages is paid; during the reaping of the canes, some of the labourers will receive as much as 15*d.*

1490. Are you in the habit of employing your labourers by task, or by job, or by the day?—By the day; job-work or task-work was introduced at the commencement of the apprenticeship. I have been absent from the island nearly three years, and I believe it is not in operation at present. The work was imperfectly performed and done in a slovenly way, to the injury of the planter. His Excellency the late Sir Evan M'Gregor appointed a Board of Commissioners to inquire into the causes of the "late misapprehensions, &c. &c. amongst the labourers;" and that Board reported largely on the subject, and exonerated the planters from having capriciously given up task-work. I have an extract from the report which, if required, I am ready to lay before your honourable Committee. For my own part, I have no hesitation in stating, that when the labourer understands his true interest better by honestly executing his work, such a system is desirable.

1491. The rate of wages to field labourers fluctuates from 5*d.* to 15*d.* sterling a day?—From 5*d.* to 15*d.*; there are not many that receive 15*d.*

1492. What regulates the amount of wages you pay; is it the ability of the workman, or the nature of the work in which he is employed?—They are both taken into consideration. There was a scale of labour drawn up by order of Sir Lionel Smith,

Smith, when he was governor of the island, and at the commencement of the apprenticeship, and after a careful investigation by his Excellency, it was sanctioned by him, and was acted upon generally in the island, by which the quantity of work which a person was considered capable of performing in one day was expressed. The scale was drawn up very carefully, and rather in favour of the labourer, because the day was calculated at the standard of nine hours; but in most cases it has since been proved that the quantity of work given as a day's work could be performed in six hours. That scale was, however, calculated for persons who were neither very strong nor very weak.

1493. What number of hours do your labourers generally work for the wages you have stated?—Nine.

1494. At actual work?—They work nine hours.

1495. What number of hours do they rest?—Three. I do not know at what time they come out now, but it was usual to come out at sunrise. The hours were from six in the morning to six in the evening, and there were three hours allowed as an interval of rest and for food, which made the working day nine hours.

1496. Under that system do you find the work is generally performed in a satisfactory manner?—Not always satisfactory; it is frequently done in a slovenly way.

1497. What redress have the employers in the event of the work being slovened over?—Application to the special magistrates of the district; all disputes are carried before them.

1498. Is that redress found by the employers to be sufficient?—If it is not, either party may apply to the Court of Appeal, and if they are not satisfied with their decision, they may go before the Court of Error, where the Governor presides.

1499. In your opinion, is the present state of the law for the regulation of labour sufficient and satisfactory?—However the law may be sufficient for that purpose, it is not acted upon. The labourers refuse to enter into any written contract, nor will they engage verbally to enter into agreement to work for more than one day at a time. Custom has for the most part made the law as it is now administered; it is much to be regretted that the labourers will not be persuaded to enter into agreement for a longer time than one day. If contracts for labour were entered into for one year or more, such contract would necessarily include the right of occupancy to the house and piece of land attached to it, for any length of time co-extensive with the contract for hire. These two great points of hire and occupancy for a fixed time being settled, would remove a fertile source of dispute between the parties, and when slight misunderstandings took place would afford time for bringing about reconciliation, and prevent precipitate conduct, or acting upon the impulse of the moment. During the existence of the contract all disputes between the contracting parties would be necessarily settled through the intervention of the police magistrate of the district; and the contract could not be dissolved before its termination without reference to legal authority.

1500. Where the workman is actually employed is the law sufficient to compel him to do his work satisfactorily?—Yes.

1501. When are the wages paid?—Once a week, on every Saturday.

1502. In paying the wages, do you regularly deduct the amount of the rent of the land they occupy?—Regularly; it is found that by deducting it weekly in that way the labourer does not feel the weight of it; it is paid, and he does not miss it out of his weekly wages; and it prevents disagreements, because if there is any dispute, it refers only to the preceding week, and can easily be set to rights. The wages are always paid in money.

1503. Under the present system, do you never resort to job or task-work?—I really can hardly answer that question, because I have been absent from the country nearly three years. I think it is very probable that they do occasionally resort to it; there is nothing to prevent it.

1504. Are the Committee to understand that you have not been in Barbadoes during the operation of freedom?—Yes, for nine months; I left Barbadoes on the 7th of June 1839, and I have not returned there since.

1505. Then as to the operation of freedom in Barbadoes, you can, from your own knowledge, give very little evidence?—Very little.

1506. Is the system, with regard to the employment of labourers and the payment of wages which you have been describing, general through the colony?—I am of opinion that it is general; there may be some exceptions, but I think not to any considerable extent.

1507. You were in the colonies during slavery?—Yes.

 1508. What

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1508. What was the average attendance of labourers upon your estate per day during the last three years of slavery?—I cannot answer that question without having a reference to documents which I have not at hand.

1509. Can you tell what number of days in each week they worked during slavery?—Yes; six, from Monday to Saturday; but they had frequent holidays during that time.

1510. Was not Saturday a regular holiday?—Not in slavery.

1511. Was it during apprenticeship?—Yes, every Saturday.

1512. What number of days do they work now during freedom?—I will state how they were working till I left the country; the average hardly amounted to so much as four days a week; it certainly did not exceed it.

1513–14. What number of hours did they work in a day during slavery?—They worked the same number, nine hours. During the crop season they worked a greater number of hours, but they had increased allowances for it.

1515. How many slaves had you on your estate during the period of slavery?—Two hundred and thirty upon the one on which I lived.

1516. How many labourers have you had upon it during the period of freedom?—I cannot state the amount; I know that it is less.

1517. Is there any material change?—It is much fewer; a great many people have withdrawn from that kind of labour; a good many that were engaged in agriculture have withdrawn from it, and have become mechanics, grooms, and herdsmen.

1518. You cannot state the number employed upon the estate at present?—I only know that it is considerably less.

1519. Can you state, out of the number that have been employed upon your estate during freedom, how many of them were, during the period of slavery, upon the same estate?—The greater number were; the only additional persons are those that have since come to join their nearest relatives; that is, husbands to join their wives, wives to their husbands, and children to their parents.

1520. Have you found that upon your estate the labour has been much less continuous during freedom than it was during slavery?—Yes, considerably less continuous.

1521. Do you find that any great effect has been produced upon the produce of your estate, or upon the manufacture of that produce, by that change?—The effect produced by the want of continuous labour is, that everything is done out of season, and consequently the crops are diminished by it; and in the season for reaping, if the canes are not cut when they are ripe, they rot and perish.

1522. Can you state to the Committee what has been the produce of sugar upon your estate during the three last years of slavery, and during the years of apprenticeship, and during freedom?—I cannot answer that question without reference to documents, and I have none here.

1523. Have you the means in London of answering it?—No, I have not; I have been on the Continent for nearly a year, and the accounts and papers which I ought otherwise to have received have not reached me yet. Comparing the profits of the years 1840 and 1841 with the years 1838 and 1839, I have not received in the two latter years more than two-fifths of what I received in the two previous years.

1524. Do you attribute that diminution to a falling off in the produce of your estate, or to an increase in the cost of cultivation?—The cost of cultivation has considerably increased.

1525. Has there been simultaneously any great diminution in the amount of produce?—Yes; that diminution is to be attributed to other causes as well as to the change in the condition of the people, we have had very dry seasons.

1526. Which were the dry seasons?—The two last years, 1840 and 1841, have been very dry.

1527. Unusually dry?—Unusually dry.

1528. Were they such seasons as would, under any circumstances with regard to the labourers, have caused a diminution of your crop?—They would.

1529. Although you cannot give the Committee any details, can you state whether the produce during the apprenticeship was much less than during slavery?—Some of the most prosperous years that Barbadoes ever had were during apprenticeship.

1530. But since freedom there has been a falling off, which you account for from the joint operation of the three causes you have stated?—Yes; during apprenticeship

apprenticeship labour was continuous, we had the command of it, and it is essential to the prosperity of a sugar estate that you should have the command of labour; if the labour is not continuous, all is lost at the moment when you expect to reap your reward.

1531. When you complain of the want of means of reaping in due season, to what do you refer?—The want of continuous labour.

1532. Then the laws in Barbadoes with regard to labourers, although they are sufficient to make the labourer perform his work well, are not sufficient to make him work continuously?—Not at all; you cannot compel him to labour.

1533. Have you found, that as the wages are now coupled with the advantages they derive from the occupation of land, the labourers have been enabled to acquire wealth?—I do not know; they may have acquired wealth.

1534. Have any of them got rich?—I do not know that they have; they have made no purchases that I have seen. Some of them, I know, have money in the bank, but to what extent I do not know; they are very jealous of those matters, and keep them very close.

1535. Do you know of any instances of their purchasing land?—Very few, and only in small quantities; renting lands is within their reach, and they do that not unfrequently.

1536. Supposing them to have the means with regard to money, is there much land in Barbadoes which they can get for sale?—I dare say there are many persons who would be glad to sell their estates if they could meet with good purchasers: it would not matter to them whether it was to labourers or to other persons.

1537. It is presumed from what you have stated, that you do not find the existing labour on your estate sufficient?—It is the want of continuous labour that I complain of; labour at particular times, when it is most wanted; just at the time for planting, and at the season for reaping. If the cane is not planted at the proper season, the crop will not be a full one; and if you have not labour to reap it when it is ripe, much of it is lost.

1538. Do you find that you require any additional supply of labour in point of number of labourers?—There are a sufficient number of labourers in the island for the purposes of agriculture; if the people had habits of regular industry, and would work continuously, the numbers we have are sufficient.

1539. Have you ever tried the experiment of inducing them to work more continuously by advancing the rate of their wages?—That has been tried, but no good effect has attended it; at first, when it is offered, it has been accepted readily, but after a few days, when they have more money, they will withdraw.

1540. Do you know what is the present rate of wages by the last advices from your estate?—Pretty much as I have already stated.

1541. There has been no general increase?—I believe not; the wages were settled at the beginning rather high in proportion to our means to pay, because the labourers have not been paid in relation to the value of labour, but rather at such a rate as to induce them to continue in our service, and to prevent them from emigrating to the other colonies.

1542. Would you not be able to enforce more continuous labour by withholding from the labourers the indulgence you have been alluding to, with regard to the manufacturing of sugar for them?—Probably it would be an inducement, and it has been told them, "If you leave me, you will not expect me to reap your crop."

1543. What has been the result?—Sometimes they have staid with you, and at other times they have said, "We do not care anything about the crop," and they leave it and go away.

1544. Supposing you had the means of enforcing continuous labour, do you think you would have any redundancy of labourers in point of numbers?—I think not, there are so many persons that have withdrawn themselves from agricultural labour; a great many heads of families have withdrawn themselves. We are numerically strong, but efficiently weak; there are many aged and infirm who are living upon the estate, and many idle ones who will not work.

1545. If you were to give the free labourers an increased share of the produce of their own canes, would that induce them to labour more continuously; that is, if you were to take less for manufacturing their produce?—I do not think it would have any good effect; besides, all the people do not plant canes; they only plant canes in the most fertile parts of the country.

1546. What is cultivated elsewhere?—Provisions; and they keep stock.

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1547. Is there much demand for provisions in the market?—If the estate is situated near a town, they can turn it to very good account.

1548. Are you of opinion that in the present state of the labouring population of Barbadoes, you could afford to lose any considerable amount of the labourers you have by their emigrating to other colonies?—I do not think we have any labourers to spare. The number located over the country, taking all the population together, is very large, when you consider the size of the island: but then there are many persons engaged in other employments; there are a great number of domestics, and a great many mechanics, and persons of that description, and a vast number of children. And, with regard to the children, of all those who were declared free when the apprenticeship first came into operation, of that class of children, from the age of 14 down to the youngest, very few engage in agriculture. It appears to me that they consider the occupation as degrading to them, and bringing them down more to the level of slaves; and their parents uphold them in this opinion, and say they had rather support them from their own labour than see their children working in the field. They have been warned that it is a very idle practice, and that when they are worn out, and cease to be able to labour, their children will be left in a very helpless state; but to the present time no impression has been made upon them.

1549. Do not you anticipate that that evil will shortly correct itself, as those children become older and enter into competition with others as to the means of maintenance?—We are to hope so, but at present we are almost in despair upon the subject.

1550. At present you find the practical effect is, that some of the labourers are getting old, and the younger ones decline to supply their places?—That is the effect.

1551. What would be the effect of emigration from Barbadoes upon the prosperity of that colony?—We must diminish cultivation certainly.

1552. To what extent has emigration taken place from Barbadoes?—I cannot answer that question. I have nothing to refer to on the subject.

1553. From your information do you believe it to be considerable?—Yes, it has been considerable.

1554. Notwithstanding the causes which you have mentioned with regard to the diminution of continuous labour, up to this time, has there been sufficient labour to keep the whole of the estates in cultivation?—The estates have been kept in cultivation, but it is a very imperfect state of cultivation, and that is one of the causes of the diminution of the crops.

1555. You think it would be impossible for the island of Barbadoes to spare any of the large number of labourers they now possess?—I think it would be attended with ill consequences.

1556. Have you any statement of the revenues of the colony?—No; I have no documents at all.

1557. Do you know whether the revenue of Barbadoes has increased or diminished of late years?—I know that the taxes have increased most awfully.

1558. Have the import and export duties increased?—Yes.

1559. Has there been any change in the amount of the general produce of the island?—The produce is less; the productions are diminished.

1560. Have the exports diminished?—They must, of course.

1561. Have the imports increased?—The imports had increased at the time I left the island, but I understand they have begun to fall off.

1562. Are you aware of much change having taken place in the habits and general state of the negro population of Barbadoes since the period of freedom?—Speaking generally, I should say that the negro population has improved, particularly in externals, in all the decencies of conduct. There is a better observance of the Sabbath than there used to be, and marriage has become more frequent.

1563. In other respects have they improved?—There are no others that I recollect at present; it is probable that there are many others.

1564. Do you think the state of morals is better than it was?—I think it is.

1565. In giving these answers, are you judging from what you observed yourself during the first year of freedom, or from the accounts you have since received from the island?—I am judging from observations I made myself, particularly when they were in a state of transition, during the apprenticeship.

1566. Have you reason, from your accounts, to think that that improvement has been progressive up to the present time?—My accounts in that respect are not so satisfactory

satisfactory as I could wish them to be. The greater part are addicted to petty thefts which do not come before the notice of the public, because no complaints are made about them.

1567. Have the means of general education, and of religious instruction in the colony, increased since the period of freedom?—I have seen, by documents published in the Official Gazette, that they have very considerably increased.

1568. Have the young negroes on your estate the means of education?—Yes; there are schools close in the neighbourhood. I established a school on the estate myself before they were free, and I kept it up as long as they would attend it.

1569. Was that established during the apprenticeship or during slavery?—It was during slavery, and kept up during the apprenticeship.

1570. Is it still kept up?—No; it was kept up as long as they would attend the school, but after a time they said, no, they would rather send them to school themselves.

1571. Had they the means of sending them to any other school?—They were fully able to pay for it; at that time they were rich; they had a good deal of money.

1572. Are you aware whether in Barbadoes the negroes have shown a willingness to subscribe money for the purpose of building churches, and promoting religious instruction, or the education of their children?—I do not know to what extent it has been carried.

1573. Do you know of any considerable subscriptions for that purpose?—No, I cannot say that I do; I have heard of their having subscribed; whether it has been extensively or not, I cannot say.

1574. Have the public authorities of the island taken any measures with regard to those objects?—They have; there is a paper published, the Official Gazette, giving a very full explanation of those points; showing the number of places of Divine worship and of schools. I have a number of that paper which I am ready to produce.

1575. Do you think that education amongst the negroes is more general now than it was during slavery?—Certainly.

1576. Is attendance upon Divine service more general?—Yes.

1577. Are there any negroes in Barbadoes who are not Christians?—It is possible that there may be some that are not, but I think the number must be very small; I do not know of any.

1578. But it is your opinion that notwithstanding the increase of education, and the increase in the means of Divine worship, and the increased attendance upon Divine worship, dishonest practices have increased?—I do not know that they have increased; I was speaking with reference to improvement; and I say, they have not improved so much as I expected.

1579. You do not think the tendency to theft is greater than it was during slavery?—No.

1580. Are there adequate courts of justice for the punishment of crime?—Yes; but there is great difficulty in proving cases.

1581. More difficulty in proving them than elsewhere?—Not more than in some parts of this kingdom; but there is more difficulty in proving crime there than there is generally in England.

1582. Why so?—They do not like to give testimony against each other, and they evade it by every means in their power.

1583. What are the criminal courts you have in Barbadoes?—A court of grand session, of oyer and terminer, and general gaol delivery.

1584. Have all those police magistrates the power of dealing with larcenies?—No; that is one of the crimes they must send on to the higher court.

1585. In a case of a larceny being brought before a police magistrate, what course does he take?—He binds over the parties to prosecute, and commits the offender.

1586. Where is the offender tried?—At the court of grand session, which meets in Bridgetown twice a year.

1587. Does that court sit in only one part of the island?—Only one.

1588. Who are the judges of that court?—There is a chief justice appointed by Government; he presides.

1589. Are there any other judges?—I do not know whether there are any associated with him at present; this has been a new regulation; formerly it was taken

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in turn by the members of the council, who presided as chief justice, assisted by a bench of magistrates; but that is now changed, and there is a chief justice.

1590. Have you a court of quarter sessions in the island?—I believe there are quarter sessions, but they are very seldom held.

1591. Are civil actions tried also by the same court?—No, by another court.

1592. Do you find that the negroes are willing to take care of their aged relatives?—I think they look more to the proprietors to take care of them; they are allowed to reside upon the estates rent free, without working themselves or finding substitutes to work.

1593. Who supports them?—They are supported in part by the relations and in part by the proprietors.

1594. Do you think their habits are becoming more industrious since the period of freedom?—In some respects I think their habits have improved; some of them are industrious, cultivating their spots of land, and others are not. They are deficient in accumulating those little comforts about them in which the English labourer delights for the benefit of his family. They have not arrived at that state of civilisation.

1595. What sort of houses do you provide for the negroes?—Different descriptions; some proprietors go to very great expense in the houses, others less.

1596. Are they, for the most part, comfortable houses?—Yes, for the most part, they are.

1597. What are they built of?—Stone walls, and the roof covered with thatch or with shingles, that is pieces of wood brought from America, but generally with thatch.

1598. Do they accommodate more than one family?—There are a great number of houses on an estate. I was asked how many labourers there were upon the estate I resided on. I said, about 230. Now upon that estate I have 83 houses; as soon as young persons grow up, they want to have a separate establishment; they do not like to live together.

1599. Are the money wages you pay more than sufficient to support a family?—It would appear so, because I suppose if it was not more than sufficient, they would urge their children to labour; but, on the contrary, they try to keep them back from it.

1600. Do you find that the women engage in field labour?—Yes.

1601. Do they do it willingly?—Yes; as much so as the men.

1602. Do they do as much work?—Yes; except some descriptions of work that they do not engage in; but, generally speaking, at the ordinary work of the estate, I think they do as much, and quite as willingly.

1603. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Do you suppose if you were to give the negroes interest in the profits of the estate, that would induce them to continuous labour?—I do not think it would be attended with any good effect.

1604. Supposing that in any particular year in which you received a certain sum from the estate, you were to give them a per centage upon that sum?—Perhaps the same labourers that planted the crop would not reap it; the whole of them certainly would not.

1605. Have the labourers at any time demanded an increase of wages, just as the crops were ready to be gathered?—They have.

1606. Have you ever been obliged to comply with their demand, in order to get the crop gathered in?—I complied with it as far as I thought it reasonable; when it was unreasonable I resisted it.

1607. What was the effect of that?—Perhaps the effect of it was, for a short time, that I was obliged to stop the reaping, or to stop it partially; but they returned afterwards when they found I was willing to go to a reasonable extent.

1608. Has the crop ever been damaged by such delay in cutting it, at a time when it was quite ripe?—Certainly it has.

1609. Has an instance ever come to your knowledge, in which the labourers have cut the canes, and then, having cut them, have demanded an increase of wages before they would make them into sugar?—It has not come under my observation; I have heard of it, but nothing of the kind ever came under my observation.

1610. You say that the moral condition of the negroes has been better since emancipation; how do you reconcile that with the fact that the inclination to theft remains undiminished?—A man may be improved, but not made perfect.

1611. Do

1611. Do you suppose that the inclination arises from a greater facility for concealing the stolen goods, or from a deficiency in the police?—From a deficiency in the police, I think; but I do not admit that it has increased, and therefore the question of facility I think has no application.

1612. Are you aware that the negroes have purchased any estates?—They have not.

1613. Neither individually nor in company?—No.

1614-15. Viscount *Howick.*] Can you give the Committee any account of the average produce of sugar upon your estate during slavery, and since the establishment of freedom?—Yes; I have lately received the quarterly return of the estate from 1st January to 31st March of the present year, which is as follows:

Claybury Estate consists of 309 acres, and is cultivated as follows:

Acres.	
45	plant canes, to be reaped in 1842.
47	1st ratoons, ditto.
40	plant canes, for 1843.
10	potatoes.
35	Guinea corn, for fodder.
32	negro allotments.
42	sour grass.
58	ravines, roads, site of buildings, negro yard, and pasturage.
309	TOTAL.

The 45 acres plant canes, to be reaped this year, will grow ratoons next year.

Stock on the Estate.

10	horses.
4	mules.
84	oxen and cows, including steers and calves.
1	bull.
11	pigs.

Labourers, &c. located.

59	first class, field labourers.
22	second ditto, ditto.
1	third ditto, ditto.
*82	

Engaged in Field Work.

4	superintendents.
2	watchmen.
13	grooms and storekeepers.
9	artificers.
4	domestics.
67	children, not at work.
14	old and infirm.
195	TOTAL, located on the Estate.

* The average attendance of the 82 persons engaged in field work is about four days and a half per week, but employment is offered for six days.

The quantity of sugar made in 1841 was 90 hogsheads, and about the same quantity the preceding year; and 110 hogsheads are expected this year, 1842. The average number of hogsheads made on the estate from 1833 to 1839 was 140 hogsheads per annum.

It is to be observed that the word "hogshead" is indefinite, there being no standard weight affixed to that package; what I have described as the average return of my estate, to the acre, are large hogsheads; but the difference between large and small hogsheads is from three to four hundred weight.

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1616. You have said that the negroes, in some instances, cultivate their own land in canes. Can you state what amount of produce they obtain per acre?—I cannot exactly state it, because it was cultivated in small quantities. But I think it was much about the same as land cultivated for the estate.

1617. You conceive that the land cultivated by the negroes for their own benefit produces, upon the average, about the same amount of produce per acre, as the land cultivated for the estate?—Unless in the hands of good cultivators it is less.

1618. You do not think they render the land which they cultivate for their own benefit, more profitable than the land they cultivate for the estate?—No.

1619. Is there any system of rotation of crops adopted in Barbadoes?—Yes.

1620. How long together does the same land grow sugar?—The land remains one year out of sugar, and grows provisions, and then comes in again for sugar in the following year.

1621. And then the following year in plants?—Yes.

1622. And then how many years in ratoons?—Seldom more than one.

1623. In Barbadoes you can seldom get second and third ratoons?—Seldom more than one year. A few estates may get two or three years ratoons.

1624. Do you manure the land at all?—Very highly.

1625. With what species of manure?—We keep a great number of cattle, and rich mould is collected.

1626. Are the cattle pastured or fed in stalls or in folds?—Part in one way and part in the other. They are pastured in the early part of the day, and generally stall-fed (whenever there is sufficient food for them) in the latter part of the day.

1627. Do you employ grasscutters to collect grass for them?—Yes.

1628. Do you employ any considerable portion of the estate in raising food for stock?—There is a considerable portion of it employed in growing food for the cattle. They are fed a good deal upon potatoes, and there is a description of corn that we call Guinea corn, which is grown and cut down for the stock.

1629. Do you import manure from this country?—Yes.

1630. What descriptions of manure?—A great deal of soot has been sent out; and I have just sent out nearly 100*l.* of guano.

1631. Is the plough much used in cultivation in Barbadoes?—The plough is used, but not to so great an extent as it might be used, for the labourers there are averse to use agricultural implements. I went to some expense last year, and the year before, in sending out implements, but they are lying, most of them, on hand; they will not use them; they have never been accustomed to them.

1632. Since the abolition of slavery, has there been any endeavour made to economise labour, more than formerly, by the use of improved machinery and implements?—I think the economy of labour is quite in its infancy in our country, and we have now to learn it.

1633. You think the system pursued in the island is susceptible of great improvement in that respect?—Yes, I do; but, before that can take place, the labourers must be taught in what way it is to be done.

1634. Do not you think some fall in the price of sugar would be a great stimulus to economy?—The price of labour keeping up beyond what persons can afford to pay, will have that effect; but, when agricultural improvements come much into operation, wages will be reduced.

1635. You have said that the negroes only occupy their provision grounds from week to week, and pay a weekly rent; have you never attempted to give them a longer holding, two or three years?—I have repeatedly offered that they should enter into a contract to hold the house and land for a year; the law did not allow us to extend our engagements beyond that.

1636. Is there anything in the law which prevents a lease for a small holding of land being for more than a single year?—Yes, there is; I believe it originated with the Government of this country.

1637. An objection to land being let for more than a year?—Yes; at least an objection to a contract for labour for more than a year. Of course, if the labourer could not enter into a contract with his employer for more than a year, the employer will not like to let his house for a longer period.

1638. Supposing there is no contract for labour, is there any difficulty interposed by the state of the law to a contract for letting land for more than a year?—None that I know of; I have offered to enter into a contract with them, that they

they should hold the house and land for a year, if they would agree to give me the refusal of their labour; and that I would agree to take it from them whether I wanted it or not, for the same period.

1639. But you have never attempted to let the land without a contract with respect to labour?—No.

1640. Do you suppose that any of the unwillingness of the negroes to enter into any contract arises from a mistrust as to the mode in which justice is administered in the island?—I think that has its effect.

1641. You do not think the administration of justice in the island at present is satisfactory?—I think that justice is perfectly administered towards them; that they have nothing to complain of; but they are suspicious, and unjustly so.

1642. Are the judges of the superior court, lawyers sent out from this country, or are they planters in the island?—The court of appeal is composed of three magistrates, who were selected from the stipendiary magistrates that were sent out from this country; they have no interest in the island of Barbadoes. I do not know who they are now; but three were selected from the body of special magistrates that were sent out at the time of the apprenticeship.

1643. What are the chief courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction in the island?—A court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery, called grand sessions, and court of common pleas.

1644. Is that court presided over by persons who have received a regular professional education?—It is now presided over by the chief justice, who received his appointment last year.

1645. Previously to that it was presided over by persons who were planters?—Yes.

1646. But it is still a chief justice whose functions are confined to the island of Barbadoes?—Yes.

1647. Nothing has been done to bring into operation the system of circuit courts?—Nothing, that I know of.

1648. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Have you at Barbadoes any courts called courts of reconciliation?—I believe there is one, but it has been established since I left the island.

1649. You can say nothing of its failure or success?—I have heard very little of it.

1650. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Would not a fall in the price of sugar have the effect of crippling the means of the planters, and lessening the cultivation of the land?—Undoubtedly.

1651. What do you think is the lowest remunerating price at which sugar can be sold?—It will require a little calculation to answer that question; I am not prepared to answer it.

1652. Do not you think that a fall in the price of sugar would operate injuriously upon the situation and the welfare of the negro population?—I do.

1653. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] A fall from what price?—From the price we have been obtaining the last year; I mean any considerable fall.

1654. Mr. *Barclay.*] Can you state the cost of production in the time of slavery?—No; I could do it if I had documents to refer to.

1655. Can you state whether the cost of production is greater now than it was during the time of slavery?—It is considerably greater.

1656. Mr. *Godson.*] You stated that, supposing the negro to raise sugar canes upon the land he hires, the planter takes one-third of the produce, and the tenant has two-thirds. How is it ascertained, as between the planter and the negro, that two-thirds go back to the negro, and one-third remains with the planter?—Suppose he makes three barrels, or three hogsheads, I, as the proprietor, should take one, and give him two.

1657. But, inasmuch as the total quantity of land is only a quarter of an acre, are we to understand that the planter makes as much as can be produced from a quarter of an acre, and then sends it back again, and goes on making it for one negro after another, or is it in the mass?—It is a very troublesome business; the cane juice is received into a reservoir or cistern, and the number of inches is measured, and an account is kept of it; that A. had so many gallons to an inch, and B. so many. When the day's work of the sugar is finished, it is summed up; so many gallons of cane juice have made such a quantity of sugar: then, if the total number of gallons produce so much sugar, what is A.'s share. But it is very troublesome

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troublesome and unsatisfactory, for the labourer is never satisfied, and always thinks he has been cheated, which is a great annoyance to the employer.

1658. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you never try instead, buying the canes from them at a certain price?—They do not like it; they would rather have it made into sugar for themselves. I should be very glad indeed if they would give up planting them; it is a cause of so much dissatisfaction. My attorney wrote last year to tell me that there had been a great deal of dissatisfaction upon the estate about the division of the sugar; and I wrote to him to say that I thought the best way would be, to let the whole of the sugar made for the negroes be put into barrels, and when it was fit to be divided, let them appoint certain persons to come and see the division take place, and then say, You draw two, and I one, and so on; but even that has not satisfied them. He writes me to say, that they do not like it put into barrels, but they prefer having it put into hogsheads. Now that it goes in hogsheads, two or three people's sugar is put into one hogshead; but whatever can be done to conciliate them, I am willing to accommodate them in.

1659. Mr. *Godson.*] What is the largest quantity you have known in the case of any negro growing canes, and sending them to the planter's mill, for the purpose of being made into sugar?—I cannot exactly state that.

1660. Did you ever know half an acre?—I never knew it exceed half an acre.

1661. Supposing all the produce of that half acre to go in one day, would it be worth the planter's while to manufacture that half acre, so as to keep it separate for that particular negro?—Yes, if it was to that amount, it would. However small the portion may be that is brought by each person, you have to stop grinding till all is sent down to the boiling-house; and if it is large enough to make a hogshead, it would be put by separately; but if it is in small quantities, they mix three or four people's together.

1662. In other words, it would be like taking a small quantity of corn in the country to the miller to be ground?—Exactly so.

1663. Would it be possible to get the negroes in Barbadoes to take, for instance, an acre of land, and cultivate it themselves, and then render those canes to the mill, and take a certain portion of it for their trouble?—That has never been tried, but both parties must be consulted upon it. The interests of the proprietor must be considered, as well as of the labourer. I do not know whether it would be to his interest to do so, because he would be so entirely dependent upon the industry of the labourer.

1664. From your knowledge of the negroes of Barbadoes, do you think that such a system could be carried into effect?—I very much doubt whether it would be to the interest of the parties concerned to enter into such an agreement.

1665. Supposing that it were for the interest of the planter to divide his estate into a hundred portions, and then to say to a hundred families, now you will rear the canes upon this acre, and so on, and then bring them to my mill, and you shall have two-thirds of the sugar in return for your cultivation; do you think, from the nature and habits of the negroes in Barbadoes, that they would consent to such a system?—This plan has never been proposed, therefore I cannot say whether the labourers would consent to it or not, but I do not think it would be to the interest of either party to enter into such an agreement. Firstly, for the labourer, it would be necessary for him, when the canes were ripe, to provide combined labour to take them off in time, which labour I do not think he could command; and he must be at some additional expense to keep up a train to carry the canes to the mill. He would also be thrown out of the proprietors' employ except during the reaping of the crop, and when the cane crop failed from effects of drought, or any other cause, he would have no means to support himself and family. On the part of the proprietor, he would become altogether dependent on his tenants, and if they were deficient in skill or industry he would be ruined; because his expenses for keeping buildings in repair, and rebuilding them if destroyed by fire or hurricanes, must be kept up so long as that system was under trial. I do not consider this would be an improved system, for the greater number of hands the land passes through the greater will be the risk of having it properly cultivated.

1666. Mr. *Barclay.*] What may be the value of the buildings and machinery upon the estate you have spoken of?—They are done upon an economical plan at Barbadoes compared with other places I have been to. It would be very small indeed; about 5,000 *l.* sterling.

1667. Do

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1667. Do they use steam to any extent in the mills?—They use windmills; there is only one steam-engine in the island.

1668. In the East Indies the labourers produce the canes, and sell the canes to the manufacturer; do you think it would be practicable to introduce such a system into the West Indies?—I should not consider it an improved system. Till we have tried these things, it is matter of opinion whether it would be practicable. I have stated that the more minutely you divide the land, and the more hands that it passes into, the greater is the risk. If there are 100 people to cultivate an estate, and to have it in portions, there is a greater risk that it will not be so well cultivated as if it is in the hands of a few.

1669. Viscount *Howick.*] What proportion of the properties in Barbadoes are occupied by resident proprietors?—I do not know the exact number; there are a good many resident proprietors; there are many that are absent for a time and then return to the country, and some are resident in this country altogether.

1670. Is there a considerable number of persons who are resident upon their own estates?—Yes; and there are many that are frequently absent.

1671. Are there cases of persons leasing estates and cultivating them upon their own account?—Yes, since the apprenticeship ceased a great many have been leased.

1672. Instead of being managed by means of an attorney?—Yes.

1673. Do you find that a better system of management than by attornies?—Those who have leased them are ruined, and have had to give them up. Those who let them have had to take them back at a considerable loss. The persons that rented them have exhausted all they had. I do not say this from what I know myself, but from what I have heard; and I have seen the parties.

1674. Do you see any considerable difference in respect of economy of labour and enterprise and skill in cultivation between the properties of resident proprietors and those of non-residents?—No; the non-resident proprietors' estates are generally under the superintendence of gentlemen of experience, who appoint managers upon them and inspect them; from the very circumstance of the non-resident proprietors not being upon the spot, I think they sometimes obtain a superior class of managers upon the estate, because they enjoy all the benefit of living that the proprietor would derive, if he was on the spot and living there himself; and it frequently happens that some of the best managed estates in the island are those of non-resident proprietors.

1675. Do you think they are as economically managed as those which are managed by their own owners?—Quite as much so.

1676. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Do you give large salaries to your managers?—With the present reduction in the prices of sugar, and the failure of crops, we find every expense large; but they are not so large as in some of the other colonies.

1677. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you consider that a person who is managing an estate for another, and not for himself, can act as freely in introducing improvements, and making any arrangements for economising labour, as the owner could?—As a general principle, I think that the non-resident proprietors usually entrust their estates to practical men in Barbadoes; they are not placed in the hands of men who have an imperfect knowledge of agriculture; they are men of experience and men of character, and it is their duty to look out for industrious men. They have a system of management laid down which the manager must follow; I think that the non-resident proprietors place a great deal of confidence in their representatives in the island, and it seldom happens that any suggestion is made by the attorney of an estate to a non-resident proprietor, but he complies with it.

1678. You have stated that the economy of labour is in its infancy in Barbadoes; do you think that that fact is partly to be explained by the circumstance that the land is not in general occupied by persons who have a direct interest in the management of it?—No; I think it has arisen entirely from the state of slavery, when manual labour could be obtained readily; and from want of intelligence in persons, and want of knowledge, they did not know how to do it.

1679. In the three years since slavery has been abolished, ought there not to have been some change in that respect?—Attempts have been made, and I have sent out myself to the amount of nearly 100*l.* in agricultural implements, and a great part of them are lying now upon the estate not used.

1680. Have you ever been in Cuba?—No.

1681. Or in any foreign colonies?—No; I have been in other British settlements.

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1682. You do not know the system of cultivation adopted in foreign colonies?—No.

1683. You are not aware whether any improved processes are adopted in them, or more economical modes of cultivation than in ours?—No.

1684. You seem to be of opinion that the occupation of the land in these colonies, by persons who merely manage for the owner, has not been the cause of the unimproved system of management you describe?—The proprietors not being resident has not thrown any impediment whatever in the way of improvements in the management of the estates.

1685. How do you account for the difference in that respect between sugar cultivation and other cultivation; why should there not be, in the case of sugar cultivation, the difference which is always found to exist between land managed by a servant for another, and land managed by a person on his own account?—I do not know; I am unable to explain why it should be so. If the proprietor was resident upon the spot, he must employ others. In the West Indies every proprietor farms for himself, with the exception of the estates I have spoken of, which were leased out.

1686. Mr. *Howard.*] Have any estates been thrown out of cultivation since the establishment of freedom?—No.

1687. Have any been sold?—Very few.

1688. Have they been sold at a less price than during slavery?—Yes, but there were other causes for it; we have had bad seasons.

1689. How great has been the depreciation in value?—I do not know.

1690. Viscount *Chelsea.*] You spoke of there being in Barbadoes a great number of aged and infirm and children; do you mean that there are a greater number in proportion than in the other islands?—Yes, more so than in any of the British West India islands. By reference to the Registration Returns, the Committee will perceive that the Barbadoes registration increased more than the others from natural causes; consequently there must have been more children born, and fewer deaths have taken place. There are a very considerable number of children.

1691. Mr. *Howard.*] Can you state what estates have been sold at a loss since the emancipation?—No, they have been sold since I left the country; I have heard of their being sold at a loss, but I cannot mention the exact prices.

1692. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Can you name the estates?—There have been very few; some of those have been very recent.

1693. Were they estates of any size?—No, small estates.

1694. Was the loss very great?—I do not know whether it was or not; some of them I believe had been in the possession of the late proprietors for a long time; but what I mean to say is, that they were sold at a reduced price, compared with what could have been obtained for them four or five years ago.

1695. Then your information merely goes to the fact of some small estates having been sold at a small loss?—At reduced prices to what could have been obtained a few years ago.

1696. Mr. *Howard.*] When you state that they have been sold at a loss, you compare them with their value in 1831 and 1832?—I would rather compare them with their value during the apprenticeship.

1697. Viscount *Howick.*] If you compare them with their value before any change took place in the state of society, how would that comparison be?—Less; their value was higher during the period I mentioned, in 1831 and 1832.

1698. Mr. *Barclay.*] How much?—I cannot tell that; I cannot answer any question of that sort exactly, for I have no documents to refer to.

1699. Viscount *Howick.*] Are you aware that in 1831 and 1832 there were great complaints as to the depreciation of West India property?—I am aware of it; when I mention these two years, I do not speak to the exact time.

1700. Mr. *Godson.*] In 1831 were they not perfectly unsaleable?—It might have been so in 1831, but it is seldom that estates have been perfectly unsaleable in Barbadoes.

1701. *Chairman.*] You were understood to state that the labourer receives no assistance from the proprietor in his production of sugar, except in manufacturing the produce, in consideration of which the proprietor receives one-third of the sugar made. Is it the custom for the proprietor to accommodate the labourer with the use of carts and cattle for the hauling the produce?—Of course that is included. The proprietor cuts the canes, and carries them to the mill, and pays all

all the boilers and people at the mill; he is to pay the whole expense; from the time the cane is fit to be cut the whole expense is thrown on the proprietor, and for that he receives one-third of the quantity of sugar made.

1702. What sum of money have you ever known to be made by a negro from the profits of land so cultivated?—I have known large sums made by a body of negroes.

1703. Do you mean working as a company?—I mean the total number working on the estate.

1704. For their own profit?—Yes.

1705. Where?—It happened on my own estate.

1706. What sum of money have you ever known to be divided amongst the negroes in that way?—I do not think I have known more than about 20*l.* sterling a piece, where the land held amounted to half an acre; but I have heard of larger sums than that. But I do not state it as a common thing.

1707. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you employ upon your estate any labourers who are not resident upon it?—Yes, occasionally.

1708. What is the difference in the rate of wages paid to such labourers and to those resident upon the estate?—When I employ labourers of that description, I have the power of selection, and I would only employ the most able persons that offered themselves. In that case they receive from 2½*d.* to 3*d.* a day more than the labourers that are in continuous employment.

George Carrington, Esq. called in; and Examined.

1709. ARE you acquainted with the island of Barbadoes?—Yes.

1710. How long have you resided in that island?—I resided there, 30 years ago, for four years, and I returned this day week from Barbadoes from a short visit I made there recently, having stayed there about two months.

1711. During those two months you stayed in Barbadoes, did you devote your attention to the present state of labour in the island?—With all the diligence I could; I went there for the express purpose.

1712. Were you travelling about during that time?—Constantly. I made it my business to endeavour to get information from the managers and residents upon the various properties, as far as my time and my health allowed me to do.

1713. One means of obtaining information which you had was your paying visits to individuals?—I resided upon my own estate, but I was hospitably and kindly received on the part of all classes of the community, and therefore, I had advantages which a much longer residence would not have given me under different circumstances.

1714. What is the extent of your estate?—I have two estates; they are about 935 acres the two.

1715. How are those estates managed and cultivated?—They are managed by a manager or managers, under an attorney, who receives a commission upon the net clearance of the property.

1716. Were those estates in your possession during the time of slavery?—Yes, and for very many years before.

1717. And they have been cultivated constantly under the same system by those managers?—Yes.

1718. Can you state how many slaves you had upon your estates during slavery?—It varied very materially. I should say about 400; 200 upon each. At times they amounted to that, at other times not.

1719. Does that include the whole number of negroes, women, and children?—The whole.

1720. Has that number diminished or increased since the alteration in the condition of the negroes?—Considerably diminished; because they go when they please, and come when they like, and stay as long as they please; and I know that part of those whom one considered one's own have emigrated.

1721. Do you find their number smaller than it was during slavery?—Certainly.

1722. Do you find any complaints with regard to the want of continuous labour on the part of the labourers?—Occasionally I do; but a wonderful difference has taken place within the last two years, or two years and a half; improvement in every respect has taken place within that time, especially within the last year.

1723. Do you refer to an increased willingness to work on the part of the labourers, or to the general moral habits and character of the negroes?—I heard

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that there was a much greater willingness to work now than existed two years or more ago. I do not mean, however, to say that it is regular and continuous; I mean to confirm what the gentleman has stated before me upon that subject, but at the same time that it is infinitely better than it was two years ago.

1724. To what do you attribute the increased willingness of the labourers to work during the last two years?—It is but a short period since the apprenticeship ceased; everything was new to them, and the whites and they did not understand their relative position, and it could not be expected they should. Each person had his own system; no general, uniform system took place in the island, either with reference to rent, or labour, or the relation of landlord and tenant; all things were in a state of uncertainty and suspicion. That has by degrees been remedied, and a system of greater uniformity is being gradually introduced into the island, and is becoming better understood, and it produces the results I have stated, which, I conceive, must be progressively improving.

1725. Has the produce of your estates diminished materially since the abolition of slavery?—Within these two years in particular, it has diminished, but I attribute that more to the extreme drought which has taken place in that part of the island, than to any other circumstance. Barbadoes is a very small island, but perhaps there is no island of the same limited extent, that presents so great a variety of climate and soil as Barbadoes; and therefore, what one gentleman may say respecting one part of the island, may appear quite at variance with that which is stated by another. I happened to be in a very dry part of the country, and therefore during the last two years, when there was almost a famine, the cultivation suffered greatly.

1726. Do you consider that the great drought has been the cause of the diminution of produce upon your estates?—I think upon my own that has been the cause the last two years, undoubtedly.

1727. You do not attribute the diminution in produce, in any material degree, to the want of continuous labour on the part of the negroes?—Not within the last two years.

1728. Are you enabled to state to the Committee what is the difference in the quantity of labour upon your estate now, as compared with what it was in the time of slavery?—I can state certainly, that there is a vast deal less labour required now, inasmuch as formerly we had a population of some 400 people to cultivate corn and provisions for. Now they are their own masters, the same quantity is not cultivated, and therefore so many hands ought not to be required; they are more limited to the cultivation of canes.

1729. Do you find that in consequence of the altered habits of the negro, there is any deficiency of labour upon the estate?—There was none when I came away, and from all the inquiries I could make, though there were occasional interruptions, the attorney and all that I spoke to on our part of the island did not seem to apprehend that there was any deficiency of labour; there were certain interruptions took place from time to time, sometimes vexatious enough, but still on my own estate I saw no reason to complain, and I heard no complaint.

1730. Supposing the habits of the negroes upon the estate to be more settled and labour were continuous, would there be a redundancy of labourers?—I do not think there would be whilst they continue, both blacks and whites, so completely ignorant of the science of the economy of labour.

1731. Do you think that at present any extensive emigration could take place from Barbadoes, without injuriously affecting the cultivation of the land?—I think it would most injuriously affect it. I heard from those who are much better able to understand the subject than myself, that it would be a most serious evil. With regard to those who have emigrated to Demerara, it was stated that it was a most important thing to attend to the petitions to bring them back again, and numbers have arrived, facility having been given by the Government sending vessels for them; and they came back, certainly, miserably disappointed, as I understand. Part of them arrived whilst I was there; I did not see them, but I understood they were extremely dissatisfied and disappointed, and they deeply regretted ever having quitted Barbadoes, and numbers were lost; I believe the extent of emigration was from 3,000 to 4,000.

1732. What wages do the labourers upon your estates receive?—Some of them receive a quarter dollar, some about 1*s.* 3*d.* sterling, some of them 10*d.* a day. There is a system by which those located upon estates, and who have houses and land, receive less than that description of labourers who are called extra or transient.

1733. What

1733. What are those extra people?—They are people who come from various parts of the country, and offer their labour at a fixed hire.

1734. At a fixed hire per day?—Yes.

1735. Do those persons who go about the country in that way, obtaining labour where they can, ever work by task or job?—There are certain people who get their livelihood by assembling and forming an acquaintance with people who have no settled employment upon a particular estate; they offer their services to persons who require labour, and in some cases they will do it by the job, but in the great majority of cases they work by the day. In all cases that came under my knowledge they worked exceedingly well, and in some instances better, than those located upon the estate.

1736. Will they enter into contracts to perform the work for any specific sum?—In some cases they have been known to do it; in some cases they are undertaking contract-work for mending roads, and other purposes.

1737. Where do those class of labourers reside while they are working for you?—They come in the morning at the proper hour, and go away in the evening; I do not know where they go; they are scattered about upon various estates. The Committee are probably aware of a peculiarity in Barbadoes, as compared with the state of things in this country, that they still practise the custom of polygamy, therefore they have various homes, inasmuch as they have various wives, leading of course to a disinclination to fix themselves upon one particular spot; and till a regular and uniform system of renting is established over that island, those irregularities will take place.

1738. When you speak of polygamy, do you mean that they have two wives to whom they are legally married?—No; I mean that they cohabit according to their notions of marriage, nor do I know that they are, in the sense of the word, strictly married. Marriage is a rite which only of late years has been practised in Barbadoes, at least, comparatively speaking; it is on the increase.

1739. With the exception of those wandering labourers who work for you, do the labourers on the estate occupy land belonging to the estate?—They occupy land, and they occupy houses.

1740. In what quantities do they occupy land?—My orders were before the emancipation took place, that they should have allotments of a quarter of an acre, anticipating the emancipation, and they had allotments of a quarter of an acre, the same as some of my tenants have in England. I considered that the fittest portion to appropriate to them.

1741. Then, upon your estate, you have limited the allotments to a quarter of an acre?—Till I have greater experience of the working of the system, I mean to limit it to a quarter of an acre.

1742. Do you receive any rent for the land?—The whole system of receiving rent in Barbadoes, with some exceptions, is extremely uncertain and unsound. It has hitherto been received upon all the estates, with very few exceptions, in the shape of a deduction from wages, or a fine for absence; that is, the labourers who are located upon the estate receiving less pay at the end of the week than those receive who come, having no habitation or land upon the estate. It is evident that an uniform system of renting, and a thorough understanding of his rights on the part of the tenant as well as the owner of the land, must lead to the most essential improvement; but that is not yet in full practice, partly because there has not been sufficient time, and partly because a number of great mistakes were committed in carrying out the great experiment in the transition from the one state to the other. The dread of emigration, the competition between individuals, and the apprehension that there would not be labour sufficient, led to a most injurious principle of gratuitous holding, the effect of which must be gradually remedied.

1743. You are aware that the system of deducting rent from wages is not an uncommon one in England, and it is not the less rent because it is so paid. Does the rent so deducted form the subject of a distinct agreement, either verbal or written, between the proprietor and the labourer?—Yes; but notwithstanding that, it does not prevent an unpleasant feeling. At the end of the week the man is called upon to pay rent, not in the form of rent, but in the shape of deduction from wages, with a fine for those days he has been absent, and hence a feeling of dissatisfaction arises; and I believe it is an universal feeling on the part of the blacks that they would rather be put upon a system of regular rent, and be allowed to work where they please.

1744. Do you mean that a feeling of dissatisfaction exists on the part of the

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negro, at finding his rent deducted from his wages, although that negro has agreed to pay the rent?—I think it does.

1745. What is the rent you have been in the habit of so deducting in consideration of the occupation of a quarter of an acre of land?—For a quarter of an acre, with a house, it is about four bits a week.

1746. What is a bit?—They reckon 100 cents to a dollar, and a bit is 10 cents, it is therefore the tenth part of a dollar; it is about 5*d.* sterling.

1747. How much sterling is a dollar?—Four shillings and twopence.

1748. Then the four bits are two-fifths of a dollar?—Yes.

1749. One shilling and eightpence sterling is the rent you receive?—Yes.

1750. Is that, or is it not, a high rent as compared with the rent usually paid by the labourers in the island?—No, it is a low rent; in the neighbourhood of a town there is great competition for houses at a much higher rent than that.

1751. How do you find that the quarter of an acre so rented is cultivated by the negro?—It is cultivated in various productions, which are extremely valuable; they live in a country where there is a constant succession of crops, which is not the case in this country, and therefore no comparison can be made with the productions of the same quantity of land in this country; many of them cultivate sugar and aloes, and they have a succession of crops.

1752. Upon your estate, where they cultivate sugar, are you in the habit of allowing them any advantage in the way of manufacturing sugar for them?—The proprietor is at the whole expense of cutting and manufacturing the sugar, and he receives back, on some estates, one-third of the gross produce. In some parts of the island they only receive, I think, a fourth; in such case the negro performs the labour.

1753. Do your labourers receive any allowances in addition to money wages?—Yes, they receive gratuities occasionally; it is by no means a settled thing; but I understand they do sometimes receive a portion of molasses, and perhaps a little rum.

1754. Do you find that they are expert and industrious in the cultivation of their own land?—I think they are industrious and skilful in the cultivation of their land.

1755. Do they incur expense in manuring their own land, in order to increase the produce of it?—I was not able, during my short stay there, to learn whether they do lay out money or not in manure; but the great objection to their cultivation of canes is, that they rob the estate of manure. But however that may be, I saw very fine crops upon every estate where they were allowed to cultivate it.

1756. Do you find that upon those plots of land the negroes are making money?—Whether they are making money or not, I do not know; but they all have stock, and I believe the whole island is almost fed by the stock of the negroes.

1757. Do you consider the rent they pay for the land a high rent in proportion to the produce they obtain from it?—I do not, or else I should have reduced it; I made the most diligent inquiry, with the view of putting a fixed rent upon every piece of land; and I took pains to ascertain what the opinions were of the persons best qualified to determine the value, being very desirous to put it at an amount that should be considered fair.

1758. What were the terms upon which the negroes upon your estate cultivated those plots of land, with regard to time?—While they were located on the estate, it was considered, in the first instance, that they were to give their work to the estate, and if they did not, there was so much deducted in the way of a fine. But that never could act well, founded upon false principles altogether, and therefore the best part of the work was done by people who were hired; in short, people who preferred working upon other estates than their own.

1759. Are the majority of the persons working upon your estate persons who occupy land upon the estate, or persons who do not live upon the estate, but come from elsewhere?—The majority of the labourers consist of people who live upon the estate.

1760. Are there many persons occupying houses and plots of land upon the estate who do not work upon the estate?—Yes.

1761. In those cases what is your system with regard to receiving rents from parties so situated; do you receive any rent from them?—Yes.

1762. How do they pay their rent?—It is very fairly paid in many instances.

1763. In money?—In money. Before I came away, repeated applications were made

made for houses and land as they fell vacant, knowing that they would have a fixed rate, according to this standard, to pay. In one instance, upon an estate not far from mine, they paid the weekly rent in advance.

1764. Are there parties living upon your estate, paying you 1*s.* 8*d.* a week rent, those parties not working for you?—Yes.

1765. In such cases are you content with that state of things, or do you threaten to eject parties from their holdings who refuse to work upon your land?—Never.

1766. Are you content with receiving the rent?—I am content that they should be allowed to remain while they pay their rent. That is the regulation I have laid down, and which was to be enforced, generally, over all those houses and tenements of mine. In the course of the month of April, when I left, I found things in a very uncertain state, as to the renting system; I believe the Legislature is engaged in revising the whole of the laws upon the subject, with a view to frame something that shall proceed upon the basis of the tenement law in this country, the 1st & 2d of Her present Majesty, which has been found so useful in small tenements, and which gives the tenant equal protection with the proprietor. That would lead to a much more wholesome state of property than exists at this time, which is chiefly regulated by individual convention, varying all over the country, according to the notion of individual proprietors, and not affording that protection, either to the proprietor or the tenant, that it would do under a better law.

1767. You stated that the labourers who work for you feel dissatisfaction when they find their rent deducted from their wages; but notwithstanding that, other labourers, who do not work for you, are willing to pay rent for their land?—Many are; many of them are carpenters, many are artificers, and many who do not choose to work at all, still rent houses.

1768. What is their tenure of their houses; do they ever take leases?—None, as yet, have entered into leases; they have a strong objection to written agreements.

1769. What notice is it the practice to give on either side before giving up the holding?—Very short notice is given under the present system, which is one of the things that by a more regular law, and a better understanding upon the subject, would be regulated.

1770. How long, practically, is the notice?—By the law or custom of Barbadoes the notice of an ejectment would be very short; I think, in 48 hours a man may be ejected.

1771. Do you think that under this system a feeling of local attachment, and of reluctance to leave the land they occupy, has arisen among the negroes?—Yes, I think there has; but it is a divided interest, arising from the circumstance of their having families in more situations than one.

1772. Have you known any instances in your part of the island of negroes purchasing land?—I have heard of them; I know of none.

1773. To what extent have you heard of any purchases being made?—None of any considerable extent; my information upon that subject is imperfect; frequent applications were made to me whilst I was there to rent ground and houses.

1774. Have you given any instructions to the effect that this anxiety to rent land should be taken advantage of to endeavour to make them take leases?—Undoubtedly; I wish to make my property as available as I possibly can. I no longer want to cultivate it in corn to provide for a large population. Of course I wish to make my land as available as I can, and I would encourage letting by every means in my power.

1775. What have you found to be the changes that have taken place in the habits and general character of the negroes since freedom commenced?—There is a marked improvement in the island of Barbadoes, unquestionably, in the superior manner in which they dress, and altogether in their behaviour; as far as came under my notice, I saw nothing to complain of in their behaviour; I met with perfect civility and good conduct from them; many of them remembered me many years ago, and I think there is a marked improvement in them in those respects.

1776. Have they become more moral and religious in their habits?—So far as going to church is concerned, a result that may be expected from the parochial schools that are established.

1777. What parochial schools do you refer to?—They are under the general supervision of the rector of each parish. The schools, after the hurricane, were rebuilt;

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rebuilt; there is no parish whatever that has not a school. I believe there are many in several parishes, and I understood from the rector of the parish in which I lived that it was well attended, but not so well latterly.

1778. How was the expense of the schools defrayed?—I think the schoolmaster is paid by the vestry of the parish, and the private contributions of those who send their children.

1779. Do you find the negroes willing to incur the expense of educating their children?—I believe they are.

1780. Do you know of any sums of money having been raised by the negroes for the purpose of education or building churches?—No, I never heard of any.

1781. Is there accommodation for them, both in the way of churches and of schools?—I think there is; I think out of eleven, nine were blown down by the hurricane, and they are rebuilt and are sufficient for the population; and besides, there are chapels-of-ease according to the extent of the parish, and dissenting meetings.

1782. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Are the negroes, generally speaking, professing Christians of one denomination or another?—I think they are.

1783. Those persons that you mention as living in concubinage in different parts of the island, do they profess Christianity?—They do.

1784. *Chairman.*] With the improvement you have described in the general habits of the negroes, to what do you attribute their reluctance to continuous labour?—I stated that I had not witnessed that reluctance myself; there were, certainly, occasional interruptions, but I have not heard of any want of labour in the part of the country where I was; and upon inquiring I was told that a marked improvement had taken place during the last year.

1785. Under those circumstances, and supposing this improvement to go on, and that you had no want of continuous labour in Barbadoes, do you or do you not think that an estate may be cultivated, and the produce brought to market at much less expense now during freedom than it used to be during slavery?—No; because under the former system, though the machinery was cumbrous, yet you could bring a large portion of force, at any time that you liked, for work, which is critical, inasmuch as it must be done at a particular time, according to the weather. You could command your force, and apply it with effect to any one given object, upon any pressing emergency, but you cannot do it now.

1786. Supposing the habits of the negro became as industrious as you seem to anticipate they will do, could not you arrive at that end by the temptation of increased wages?—In a certain degree; but you must look forward to improvement more from education. As to agricultural pursuits, they have not the advantage of any education whatever; they know only the use of the hoe, and partially the plough, and the whites scarcely know anything more; and there has been no opportunity of teaching them. The people, I believe, are willing to learn, but at present they are ignorant, either as to the proper use of the plough, or any auxiliary to the plough. The plough is partially used in Barbadoes, and it is becoming more general than it has been, but no other instrument has been used as auxiliary to it with some few exceptions.

1787. On the whole you do not think the expense of cultivation is diminished?—Assuredly not.

1788. What were the prospects of the crops for the colony when you were in Barbadoes?—Good in the aggregate; but certain parishes, my own in particular, being a remarkably dry one, it will be a very short crop; but there will be an average crop according to my estimation this year.

1789. Mr. *Barclay.*] You mean a larger crop than last year?—Certainly.

1790. *Chairman.*] What is the average produce of cane land upon your estate per acre?—For two or three years past it has been under two hogsheads per acre.

1791. Will your land bear ratooning?—It used to do it when I was in the island formerly; it has not done it latterly; but I think it may be restored.

1792. How many years can you cut ratoons upon your estate?—I cut none at present; I used to do so.

1793. For how many successive years?—Never more than the second year.

1794. And now you entirely cultivate from fresh plants?—Yes; but I believe that the ratoons may be restored, as far as the second year goes, by a judicious use of artificial manures, and other means.

1795. Do you think that if habits of industry should be restored, and the labourers

labourers should be found willing to work continuously, labourers could be spared from the island of Barbadoes in the way of emigration?—From the information I received from people better qualified than myself, I should not look forward to the possibility of sparing any of the population from Barbadoes. Great numbers are unwilling to apply themselves to agricultural labour; but what changes may take place if they could be induced to get the younger portion of the population to work, or by the introduction of machinery, I cannot say.

1796. Can you state to what extent emigration has actually taken place from Barbadoes?—Between 3,000 and 4,000; to Demerara chiefly.

1797. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] How many of those have returned?—Not a great many; but without any accurate information upon the subject, I suppose, up to the time I came away, as many as 300 or 400 may have returned.

1798. Mr. *Godson.*] Some went to Trinidad, did they not?—Some went to Trinidad; the greater part to Demerara.

1799. Mr. *Howard.*] Did they leave their wives behind them?—In many instances they did.

1800. Did any distress ensue from that?—The only instance I heard of, was in a neighbouring estate to my own; the man had gone away and left his wife behind, and the gentleman to whom the estate belonged very kindly found work for her and protected her.

1801. Is there any system of relief by poor laws?—None; I saw no instance of begging or positive distress or destitution whilst I was in the island.

1802. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether any injury to the proprietors in Barbadoes immediately resulted from the loss of labour which was caused by the emigration of those 3,000 or 4,000 persons?—I heard that considerable inconvenience and loss had taken place upon particular estates, where a greater proportion left than others.

1803. Did they go from particular localities?—Yes; one man had influence enough to carry away many others.

1804. Mr. *Godson.*] You say that the plough is there, but not much used; would the surface of Barbadoes permit the plough being used generally?—In many parishes it would; in that part of the country where my property is, with little exception, on every acre.

1805. Mr. *Barclay.*] Have you used the plough upon your estate?—I have used it for some years, off and on.

1806. Drawn by oxen?—Yes.

1807. Have you tried any other agricultural implements?—I have, whilst I was there; but it is difficult to do anything where the people are wholly unacquainted with even the rudiments of the commonest agricultural implements. Implements have been sent out by proprietors; but the misfortune is, that they themselves have not been brought up to understand that a change of system is made necessary by the change in the state of things; they have not had time, and they have not had opportunity, to learn the use of such implements.

1808. Mr. *Godson.*] Has it been the practice in Barbadoes to send out white men to superintend the different departments, for instance, the head ploughman, the head cattle-man, and the head carpenter?—There have been such instances: there can be no doubt that it would be attended with good effect.

1809. Supposing a large proprietor adopted the system of having white men from England, a head ploughman, a head cattle-man, a head blacksmith, and a head carpenter, would the climate of Barbadoes enable them to work so as to remunerate themselves, and keep their families?—I think not; the advantage of such a system would be in teaching the blacks, who would be ready enough to learn, and apt enough to learn, and become expert agriculturists, if they had the advantage of being taught.

1810. Would they live there?—They would live, but they could not work in the heat of the day; they might work in the early part of the morning, and in the late part of the evening, with great effect; but I do not think the climate would allow of regular daily labour to an European constitution.

1811. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Is there any disposition, on the part of the planters, to adopt agricultural improvements?—A strong disposition and desire to improve, and a thorough conviction that it is necessary to pursue those means to attain the object.

1812. How is it that more has not been done in the way of improving the defective processes employed in their cultivation?—Those that have never been in any other country are ignorant of different things used in this country; but, as

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their expenses increase, and they see the difficulty of working the land, they will gradually avail themselves of improvements.

1813. You having set them such an example, do they seem inclined to follow it?—I thought there was the strongest desire to do so.

1814. Mr. *Godson.*] Without at all supposing that the white man should himself actually plough or do manual labour in the open field, do you think that, if white men were sent out to superintend those departments, they could instruct black men so as to make it worth the while of the planter to have such a man over each department?—Over certain departments, I think, undoubtedly.

1815. Would one of those be the ploughing department?—Yes.

1816. The cattle department?—Yes.

1817. The blacksmith's department?—It is not necessary at all for that.

1818. The carpenter and coopers?—It is not necessary.

1819. Then you would confine it to those two, the ploughing department and the cattle department?—To the agricultural departments.

1820. Supposing white men went out in the cattle department, and in the ploughing department of the estate, would it be worth the while of the planter to have such persons on purpose to superintend and teach their black people?—Certainly; but I must make this observation, as necessary to explain that part of the subject: the great disadvantage that all the proprietors in Barbadoes labour under at this moment, is the disinclination of the people to bind their children apprentices in any way, or upon any condition whatever. It is fit that I should state what I know to be perfectly true, that they were discouraged at the termination of the apprenticeship; they were discouraged expressly at the separate estates, by the head of the executive government, from ever placing their children in apprenticeship. Something was attached to the term apprenticeship that was considered to be in affinity with slavery, and the consequences have been most destructive. If it had been explained to them that every state of society in this country, more or less, has its apprenticeship, I know, from the blacks themselves, that they would not have had any difficulty in apprenticing their children; and I should say that nothing would lead to such benefit to themselves as that system of apprenticeship which takes place in this country, which gives them ample protection by law, and at the same time educates them.

1821. If the planters pursued the system of having white people to superintend those departments, would not the circumstance of their seeing the white people work, have a tendency to bring back the black people to work?—Not unless they were apprentices; nobody would be at the trouble of teaching, unless you could secure the services after having taught the person the trade for a certain time.

1822. Would not the putting white people into those different departments and showing the black people that the white people worked during the day, have a tendency to bring back the children of the black people to work?—I think it would.

1823. Then it is of advantage that the different departments of the estate, should have white people over them?—Certain departments.

1824. Supposing a ploughman or a cow-herd to go out from this country, could they and their children live in health and comfort in the climate of Barbadoes, performing no other kind of labour than that of superintending the labourers?—I think so, certainly.

1825. *Chairman.*] Is not the climate of Barbadoes more favourable to Europeans, than that of most of the West India Islands?—I have heard that it is; there is a regular trade wind, the island is small, and from the constant breeze that blows, I think the climate is healthy.

1826. Mr. *Godson.*] Do they use the steam-engine, or are they all windmills?—There is but one steam-engine in the island, it is all done by wind, the trade winds constantly blowing.

1827. Mr. *Bankes.*] Supposing that some term less offensive to the blacks than you state the name of apprenticeship has become, was adopted, do you think it would be possible to adopt a system of the nature of apprenticeship under another name?—Yes, and under that name it would have taken place, but for the interference which I wish to speak of, merely as a matter of opinion (universally however believed in the island,) and I believe the island suffers from it at this moment.

1828. You mean to say the term apprenticeship has become a term of reproach?—I think so. When I know that the head of the government actually went to the different estates to say that that was his opinion, and advised them that they

they should work their fingers to the bone rather than ever put their children apprentices, without explaining the true nature of apprenticeship, I think he fixed an impression that yet remains in the island, and that it still has a most injurious tendency, so much as to repress habits of industry on the part of the younger portion of the population, who, with some few exceptions, are bred up now in idleness.

1829. If such a term, for instance, as would express "guardian" rather than "master," were to be used, the blacks would not object to the obligation of apprenticeship, under the name of that description?—I think they would not, on a due explanation of the engagement; but certainly the prejudice has taken deep root with them. In conversations which I had with the blacks, I pointed out the consequences to their children, and to themselves, and they readily admitted the force of the observation, and regretted that things had taken that course. Of course it was a subject that I took great pains to converse with the blacks upon.

1830. Mr. *Godson.*] Is there any remedy for this evil, in your opinion?—I think the system of rent will tend to cure it; I think it is the basis of all improvement in the island.

1831. Mr. *Howard.*] Do you get a remunerating price for the sugar you produce?—I think it is a remunerating price; but the last two or three years, in that part of the island in which my estate is, it has not been remunerating to me, from the effects of the drought.

1832. With improved machinery, and with a better understanding between the negroes and the planters, do you think sugar may be produced cheaper?—I do not think the planter would get a remunerating price if his sugar were much cheaper than at present, but under more economical modes of cultivation it might be so.

1833. Mr. *Godson.*] Have you formed an opinion as to what is a remunerating price?—My opinion is that a remunerating price is 20*l.* sterling for a 15 cwt. hogshead of sugar; I think less than that would not be remunerating.

1834. Viscount *Howick.*] That answer applies to the existing system of cultivation and of manufacture?—Yes.

1835. And that system you reckon not an improved one?—I do not find fault with the manufacture.

1836. But the system of agriculture you do not consider so good a one as might be adopted?—Certainly not; everything was done by manual labour under the system of slavery, but it has now become too expensive to rely upon manual labour.

1837. Mr. *Howard.*] Can the labourers leave the island without first obtaining a certificate from the churchwardens of the parish to which they belong that they leave no relations chargeable upon the parish?—I think there is such a law, but I am not able to speak with accuracy upon that subject.

1838. *Chairman.*] Can you state the exact cost of manufacturing a hogshead of sugar?—I have notes and papers of that kind, but they are not present to my recollection. There are two circumstances to be considered; if the season enables you to make a good crop of sugar, the molasses and rum go a considerable way to pay the expenses of the estate, and therefore, under certain circumstances, in a bad season the expenses are increased in an inverse ratio to the produce, because you have all the expenses of cultivation, and you have no return.

1839. What proportion will the molasses and rum bear to the value of a hogshead of sugar?—I have never made a calculation; it was formerly considered, many years ago, that the rum and molasses paid the expenses of the estate over the West Indies generally; that is by no means the case now.

1840. Mr. *Godson.*] Has that been the case within the last 20 years?—Certainly not.

1841. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Has the better state of things, which you say has existed the last two years, produced a better return from your estate, setting aside unfavourable weather?—Certainly.

1842. Do you think the improved state of things to which you have alluded has increased the value of property generally in Barbadoes?—Yes.

1843. Does the superior dress which you say the negroes have adopted arise from their having obtained more money, or from an increased notion of delicacy?—I think, from both those causes combined; they have very great advantages, independently of the pay that they receive; they have those advantages which have been alluded to by the gentleman who was examined before me. They have a vast

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deal more live stock than in the nature of things the ground they hold could possibly furnish food for; and they must get food somewhere else, beyond what their own land gives. They get a great deal of money by their stock; fresh meat of all descriptions is dearer in Barbadoes than in England; it is 1 *s.* a pound.

1844. The inquiry related to the moral condition of the labourer. Do you think that his better dress arises from a moral conviction of the propriety of attending to his appearance, or from the fact of his being able to obtain money more easily than he obtained it before?—They are all fond of finery, and always were, and they do not grudge any money they can possibly command, the women in particular, for dress in adorning their persons. But with respect to their behaviour and deportment in general, and with respect to their habits of honesty as domestic servants, I have nothing whatever to find fault with. But there is, as has been stated, a very lax system upon the subject of trespassing upon their neighbour's property. They do not yet appear clearly to understand that they are committing an immoral act in so doing. Although they go to church, and send their children to school, they do not appear to entertain any just notions upon the subject of confining themselves to that which they have a right to; but they do, with regard to their live stock, universally trespass upon their neighbours. A renting system, upon a judicious basis, would, more than anything else, lead to that important result of checking the habit of trespassing which they now universally practise.

1845. What is your opinion as to inducing more continuous labour by giving the labourers an interest in the amount of the produce?—By a judicious system of rent, which would allow them to work for whom they pleased, you give them, I think, all the stake in the land which you can give to any population who live a dependent life, and must work for their bread. You do actually give them a portion of the profit of the land, by giving them the land upon a fair rent, and giving them a facility of manufacturing the produce afterwards, which no labourers in this country possess.

1846. Viscount *Howick.*] You think that system is capable of being applied without any real difficulty; I think so; I know there are objections made to it; but I have no objection to it whatever.

1847. Mr. *Godson.*] You said that no emigrants would be spared to go from Barbadoes to other places; in other words, you have no more than enough in Barbadoes; do you want any immigration into the island?—I do not consider that we do; but unless the habits of bringing up the rising generation are reformed, it is clear that, as the present adults wear out, there will be a great deficiency of useful labourers.

1848. As far as you could collect, during the time you were in the island, out of the large number that formerly engaged in agriculture, about what proportion or amount have ceased to engage themselves in agricultural pursuits?—I had the advantage in coming home of being in company with gentlemen of far more statistical knowledge than I possessed. The gross population of the island of Barbadoes, in blacks, I think may be taken, in round numbers, at about 80,000; and I think it was considered that the labourers, both men and women collectively, reckoning all the estates (there are about 420 sugar estates in the island), do not exceed 40,000; perhaps not so much.

1849. Viscount *Howick.*] Have you visited any of the other British colonies?—I have not.

1850. Nor the sugar colonies of other nations?—Except the East Indies.

1851. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Would a reduction of the present price of sugar have a ruinous effect, both upon the proprietors and upon the labourers?—It must depend upon the extent of the reduction. Whatever would affect the interest of the planter, would materially affect the prosperity of the black man; he is totally unable to conduct his affairs with any success whatever, supposing the whites were annihilated.

1852. Do you think it would tend to drive back the improvement in the relations between the proprietors and the labourers, which you say has of late appeared?—In my opinion, most decidedly; I think we have a striking example of that, in the results that have taken place in St. Domingo. Sufficient time has elapsed, to prove the truth of the opinions that have been formed upon that subject, that in proportion as you reduce the whites, you lessen the chance of prosperity and moral improvement on the part of the blacks.

1853. Viscount *Howick.*] You said you have not visited other sugar colonies, but

but you are no doubt aware that the land is much less productive in Barbadoes than it is in some of the other colonies?—Certainly.

1854. Do you know whether that was the case to the same extent formerly as it is now?—Certainly not to the same extent, because formerly the habit of ratooning was common all over the island, as I have understood, which marked the natural fertility of the soil, and that is, with some exceptions of favourable districts, almost exploded in Barbadoes, and there must be fertilising elements conveyed to the ground before it can be restored, if it can be restored.

1855. If you look back still further, for a century or two, was not the land much more fertile than it is at present?—I have always understood so, and the records of the estates prove that to have been the case.

1856. You consider the present diminished fertility to arise from the land being exhausted?—Not exhausted, but to a certain degree deteriorated; but it possesses the advantages of the natural resources that arise from the re-production of soil, by taking mould from the gullies and other places, which has been carried on to a very great extent. The industry of the inhabitants, with reference to the keeping up their soil, by collecting mould from every part of the estate they can get it from, has been carried on to a greater extent in Barbadoes than in any other island.

1857. But the land in the island, generally, has been deteriorated by the severer system of cropping, probably?—I should think so were it not for some striking exceptions to the contrary, which almost show that sugar cane is like mangel-wurzel, one of the few exceptions in which there may be a repetition without any great deterioration. Perhaps the only crop in England which you can go on with year after year, without deterioration, is mangel-wurzel. If you can only give a renovation to the soil, by taking the virgin mould out of the channels, the fecundity in a certain degree seems restored directly.

1858. You conceive that with a more careful system of cropping, it would be possible to restore the original fertility of the island?—I think so, by the application of artificial manures, which are now becoming used in that island, and in the island of St. Vincent. It happened that a gentleman who went there while I was in the island made that subject one of his points of inquiry, and he assured me that it had been attended with the effect of restoring the ratoons in a most remarkable degree.

1859. You stated that the accounts of the former amount of produce in Barbadoes show a considerable falling off in the fertility of the island. Have you any statement showing the comparative amount of produce many years ago?—I know, in reference to my own crops, that I was formerly in the habit of ratooning, but I do not do it now, and that proves that there must have been a deterioration from one circumstance or another. The general opinion prevailing in many parts of Barbadoes is, that the ratooning system is lost in certain parishes.

1860. Are there any records preserved soon after the occupation of the island, showing how long the land would bear ratoons, or what was the difference of fertility then as compared with the present?—I think there are records, because regular books are kept upon all the estates in the island, which would show the gross produce upon each estate; and at the same time great progress has been made, and considerable improvement in the application of mould.

1861. Could you obtain any information as to the fertility of the land from an early period after the occupation of the island?—I have no doubt whatever that formerly the land, when it was first brought into occupation, produced greater returns than it is possible to produce at present.

1862. Mr. *Godson.*] What kind of cane do you grow in Barbadoes?—The Otaheite cane, which is contradistinguished from the old original cane, which, I believe, is the cane of the East Indies.

1863. Have the planters in Barbadoes stuck to the old original cane, or have they introduced the Bourbon cane?—Decidedly they; have the Bourbon (or Otaheite) cane.

1864. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You say that the land is not so productive in Barbadoes as in the other West India colonies; are you aware what quantity of land there is in Barbadoes that is not in cultivation?—Very little.

1865. If the negroes should refuse to work, or not be able to procure work, in what way do they gain a livelihood?—They have all land, which furnishes them with abundant means of subsistence, from the means it gives them of raising stock. I never saw any want or heard any complaint upon the subject during the time

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I was there; they none of them made any complaint to me whatever; they sometimes wished for a house, and sometimes wished for a greater quantity of land, but I never heard any complaint of destitution or of poverty.

1866. *Chairman.*] Now that labour is more continuous upon your estate, how many days a week will your labourers work?—They rarely work on a Saturday. There is a fault in the original regulation during the system of apprenticeship which prescribed the nine hours, that it did not apportion an early hour; they do not come out to work before seven o'clock in the morning. By coming out at that late hour instead of five o'clock the white superintendents lose two of the most valuable hours in the day, when they might be out with perfect safety, the sun having no power. They are not required to come out at the rising of the sun, and they seldom do come out before seven o'clock, and they work nine hours.

1867. In fact, they work nine hours for a day's work?—I understand that they do pretty regularly; if they did not, it would be the business of the manager to deduct a portion of their pay.

1868. Do you understand that they work five days in a week?—Yes; assuming to themselves the right of having holidays whenever they please.

1869. Do most of them practically work five days a week?—By no means universally, and not so continuously as one would wish under particular circumstances, but in crop time they do.

1870. Saturday is the only regular holiday?—Saturday is the only regular holiday, except the periodical holidays, such as Easter and Christmas.

1871. How many hours a day did they work in slavery?—They were required to be up early in the morning, and continued, with the intermission of breakfast-time and dinner-time, till the evening, five or half-past five, or even later.

1872. How many hours did they work?—I should not think, as far as my recollection goes, that they worked more than 10 hours under slavery.

1873. Have you any bush land upon your estate?—No, except some gullies and ravines.

1874. Have you any land that has been left to rest after long cultivation?—A great deal; because not having occasion now to cultivate food for any large population, of course the land is at rest, and there is a greater quantity of pasture land.

1875. Is there any system on your estate of resting land after a certain number of years' cultivation?—Yes, under the system of cultivation, what they call sour grass is often grown.

1876. How long is the land cultivated before it is allowed to rest?—I do not know that there is any prescribed term, but I should say that the system of allowing land to rest in many places furnishes the planter with an opportunity of changing his soil for canes to a much greater extent than he could do formerly.

1877. Are you aware how many years' rest is found necessary to restore the fertility of the land?—No, I never heard; and I believe with respect to canes less than with other crops, for this reason, that the roots of the cane lie rather near the surface, and depend more on surface nourishment.

1878. Do you use machinery to any extent upon your estate?—Yes, but not half so much as I could wish.

1879. While you were in Barbadoes did you direct your attention to the revenues of the colony?—At such opportunity as I had. The resources of the colony must be much greater than they formerly were, or they could not maintain the expensive establishment which exists there. Because they have a very expensive mounted rural police, and there are various other things which show that the expenses are very great.

1880. Does that rural police patrol the whole island?—Yes.

1881. Is it found effectual for police purposes?—It has been hitherto found effectual; it was a wise establishment at the time, but it is considered by many persons that it is unnecessarily large now.

1882. What is the extent of it?—I do not know the exact amount.

1883. What persons is it composed of?—Of black or coloured people, almost exclusively.

1884. Are they found to conduct themselves well?—I understand that they conduct themselves well for such duties as they perform; but they are very impatient of anything like military discipline or regularity.

1885. Are they well paid?—I believe, extremely well paid.

1886. How long has that police force been established?—I think simultaneously with the termination of the apprenticeship.

1887. You cannot state any details as to the comparative resources of the island at present as compared with any former period?—No, I cannot; except that in my time the attorney-general of the island considered that the island was at a very low ebb, when the expenses were some 14,000*l.* a year, and now they are 50,000*l.* or 60,000*l.* a year, or more.

1888. Mr. *Bankes.*] What do you include in that expenditure?—The police and the other public charges.

1889. Mr. *Barclay.*] Does that include the payment of the military?—Not except the police.

1890. Mr. *Bankes.*] Does it include their highway rates?—Certainly; and the church establishment, which is very liberal.

1891. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether there has been any increase in the import duties in the last few years?—I am not able to answer that.

1892. When you were at Barbadoes, did you see anything of the Court of Reconciliation?—I did not actually witness it; but I perused all the papers upon the subject given to the governor, under whose auspices it was established, and who in fact originated it, Sir Evan Macgregor; and it did appear to me from those papers to have produced the best results; it seemed a court peculiarly suited for the intermediate state of society that existed; it was not expensive, it partook more of the nature of arbitration, and in the cases for trivial offences it seemed to work extremely well; but every information upon that subject is to be had upon reference to the publications of the returns of the police magistrates upon that, and upon all the subjects which came under their cognizance.

1893. Were cases of difference between master and servant frequently brought before that court?—Yes; I read some cases, and it appeared to me that they were equitably adjusted, and so as to give great satisfaction to the people. I think that the Court of Reconciliation is rather limited to domestic feuds and differences amongst themselves, than as between master and servant.

1894. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] You did not yourself attend the court?—No, I never attended the court.

1895. Where was it held?—It was held not far from me. It is held in different parishes; but I was acquainted with one of the gentlemen who was very active in it, and I obtained from him a good deal of information; and I had access to the published reports, and to the returns given to the governor.

1896. You did not hear the opinions of any of the litigants themselves?—No further than what is stated in the printed reports, which appear satisfactory, and from the report of my own manager.

1897. Mr. *Howard.*] Is polygamy a punishable offence?—I think not.

1898. Do you think the practice is as prevalent as it used to be?—I have understood that it is not so, and of course where the number of marriages has increased it is not the case.

1899. *Chairman.*] Have you found that any difficulty has arisen in Barbadoes, with regard to domestic servants, since the cessation of slavery?—There was extreme difficulty immediately following the termination of the apprenticeship; and it is a strong confirmation of what I stated before, with respect to the great improvement that has taken place within the last two years, that no complaints are now heard upon the subject. I was never better served than I was by the small domestic establishment which I had occasion to have upon my own estate during the time I was there.

1900. Mr. *Bankes.*] Is it your opinion that the result of the improvement which has taken place has been to put the population rather above the class of agricultural labourers?—I hardly know how to give a positive answer upon the subject. They all prefer putting their children apprentices to artificers; they will not put their children in any respect as apprentices to learn the labour of the field.

1901. *Chairman.*] What has been the effect upon the wages of domestic servants; have they been increasing?—I do not find that they have; I thought them moderate and fair.

1902. Are they higher now than they were at first?—I do not know that they are.

1903. Is there any difficulty in keeping domestic servants in their places; are they apt to be unsettled and to abandon their places?—Quite the contrary.

1904. In fact, no difficulty is experienced upon that subject?—No, so far as I

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was concerned; I thought there was a strong attachment to former recollections, and great regret when I came away, in quitting my service.

1905. Are there instances within your knowledge in which negroes who had been domestic slaves, living in the house, are now continuing in the same places, and serving the same masters, as domestic servants?—There are very many. In every instance, either themselves or their parents had lived with me in a state of slavery 30 years ago, both males and females.

1906. Mr. *Godson.*] The Committee have heard, that soon after the emancipation, in consequence of taking the children away from the nurseries which had been provided under the old system, many deaths took place. Have you heard in the island, whilst you have been there, that the natural increase of the population has gone on satisfactorily, and that there has been an increase in the number of children in families?—I think that the opinions in general were, that the population kept up to the usual standard, but that there was not an increase. I think that was the opinion that I gathered. As no census had been taken for some time, no correct conclusion could be formed as under the system of slavery, when a record of the population was kept on each estate.

Lunæ, 23° die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.
Mr. Barclay.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.
Viscount Chelsea.
Sir Charles Douglas.
Mr. Godson.
Mr. Howard
Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Mr. Emmerson Tennent.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Sharpe, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

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1907. *Chairman.*] DO you desire to make any statement in explanation of your evidence on the former day?—Some questions were asked me on the last examination which I could not answer at that time for the want of documents; but I have subsequently received a paper from Barbadoes, and I have made extracts from it; it is relating to the cultivation of the estate, and the number of labourers; and I have the quantity of stock, and the quantity of sugar made upon the estate, in the six years previous to the entire abolition, and in the two last years.

1908. Will you have the goodness to read it to the Committee?—Claybury estate consists of 309 acres, and it is cultivated as follows (that is the estate upon which I was particularly examined): "45 acres, plant canes, to be reaped in 1842; 47 acres, first ratoons, to be reaped in 1842; 40 acres, plant canes for 1843; 10 acres, potatoes; 35 acres, guinea corn for fodder; 32 acres, negro allotments; 42 acres, sour grass; 58 acres, ravines, roads, site of buildings, negro-yard, and pasturage; total, 309 acres. The 45 acres of plant canes to be reaped this year will grow ratoons next year. Stock on the estate: 10 horses, four mules, 84 oxen and cows, including steers and calves, one bull, 11 pigs. Labourers, &c. located: 59 first-class field-labourers, 22 second-class ditto, one third-class ditto, making altogether 82 engaged on field work. The average attendance of the 82 persons engaged in field work is about 4½ days per week, but employment is offered for six days. There are four superintendents, two watchmen, 13 grooms and stock-keepers, that is, persons engaged in the care of the horned cattle; nine artificers, four domestics; 67 children not at work, from the ages of 14 down to the youngest; 14 old and infirm; those are living upon the estate rent free; and where they are so old as not to be able to engage in any work, I support them; some of the 14, though not engaged upon the estate, are sufficiently able-bodied to be able to work themselves. Total located upon the estate, 195."

1909. With reference to the children, do you mean that there are no children above 14; or that when they are above 14, you find that they are willing to work?—The

—The children put down here are those that are not at work, from the ages of 14 downwards.

1910. Have you young persons, between 14 and 21, at all ages?—Yes; but those that are at work are above 14; all above 14 are at work. The quantity of sugar made in 1841 was 90 hogsheads, and about the same quantity the preceding year, and 110 hogsheads are expected this year, 1842. The average number of hogsheads made on the estate from 1833 to 1839 was, 140 hogsheads per annum.

1911. Mr. *Godson.*] Are any of those that are at work now, who are between the ages of 14 and 21, persons that were under 14 at the time of perfect freedom?—By saying under 14, I allude to those who were declared free when the emancipation took place; all children of six years of age and above it were declared free at the emancipation, and that is the description of persons that have so great a reluctance to engage in agricultural labour, nor are their parents willing that they should do so.

1912. Do you know any instances of those that were of the age of six at the time of emancipation engaging in agricultural labour after they have become 14?—There are some instances.

1913. Can you say what proportion?—I have not the means of stating that; I could not have given the information I have now given, but from the papers I have received since I was last here; it is a very small proportion I know; but I know that some few are engaged in agricultural labour.

Mungo Campbell, jun. Esq. called in; and Examined.

1914 *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the colony of British Guiana?—I am.

1915. For what length of time have you resided there, and when did you cease to do so?—I was there for upwards of three months, at the commencement of 1841.

1916. When did you return to England?—I returned to England in June, but I left Demerara about the end of March 1841.

1917. Were you a proprietor, or have you had charge of any estates in that colony?—I am the co-proprietor of several estates in Demerara.

1918. Have you had charge of any?—I have not had charge of any; I mean the colonial charge.

1919. What are the principal productions of British Guiana?—Sugar, and formerly coffee and cotton; coffee and cotton are now grown, but the quantity is very much diminished indeed.

1920. The principal production now is sugar?—Yes.

1921. Is there in British Guiana any law or ordinance by which contracts between labourers and employers are regulated?—There are laws and ordinances, but they are not properly understood, and the difficulty of enforcing them is most severely felt; the due performance of a week, or even a few days' work, cannot be enforced, although mutually agreed upon, and the proper performance of the work, as to quality, cannot be controlled. A negro will frequently throw his hoe down and go home, when he pleases, yet he is afterwards held entitled to receive payment for any portion of work he may have performed.

1922. Are there stipendiary justices in British Guiana?—Yes, there are.

1923. When you say that the laws are not understood, to what parties do you refer; do you mean that they are not understood by the labourers, or by the justices?—By the planters principally; I mean that there is a want of uniformity in the interpretation of the laws.

1924. They are understood by the justices?—They may understand them, but the people do not understand them; in fact there is no written law, to serve as a perfect guide to all parties.

1925. There are laws still in force upon that subject?—The laws are still in force.

1926. Do you say that they are not written laws?—They are not published laws, as laws are in this country.

1927. In what way are they in force?—The stipendiary magistrate has his

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instructions from head-quarters; and instructions by the governor constantly issued, with regard to any particular point he may have to decide upon.

1928. But still there are ordinances, having the force of laws, which are now in operation for the regulation of labour?—There are.

1929. Have those ordinances been passed by the Queen in Council, in England?—Some of them have been, but the governor has the power of issuing ordinances alone, or at least of modifying them.

1930. Would it not be very easy for the proprietors to make themselves well informed, with reference to any laws or ordinances which are in operation?—I do not know; but I think none of them are well informed upon that subject.

1931. If they were to make themselves well informed upon the subject, and to apply to the magistrates when they have occasion, those laws and ordinances might be acted upon?—I presume so.

1932. Mr. *V. Stuart.*] Are they not published?—Many of them are not.

1933. *Chairman.*] Are there any laws or ordinances as to contracts for rent and occupation of houses and grounds?—There are none that I have ever heard of.

1934. In the absence of any law, what is the practice in British Guiana with regard to the occupation of houses and grounds by labourers?—If the labourer is to be ejected, he gets a few days' notice.

1935. By what tenure do they hold these houses and grounds?—They are expected to work upon the estate, or be ejected.

1936. Do they pay rent?—No; I never knew a case of rent being paid.

1937. What quantity of ground do they usually occupy together with the house?—I am not aware that there is any particular ground measured out to them. They get quite as much as they can possibly cultivate, in addition to the labour they are expected to perform upon the estate.

1938. How much can they cultivate?—Probably, a third of an acre, or thereabouts.

1939. You mean that the allowance made by the proprietor is only limited by the demand of the labourer?—Quite so. I never knew a case of strictness with regard to allotting ground. At present, there are plenty of spare grounds upon the estates, and in almost all cases they may take what they like.

1940. Are they well lodged?—Uncommonly well lodged.

1941. And rent free?—Rent free.

1942. Is it the custom, in the event of any labourer so lodged refusing to work upon the estate, to eject him?—It is.

1943. What notice is usually given?—Three or four days' notice.

1944. In the event of the labourer desiring to remove, what notice does he give?—He gives none; he goes and comes as he chooses.

1945. Is there any law respecting combinations?—No law, that I am aware of.

1946. What law is there for the recovery of houses and lands which are held over by any tenant?—I do not think there is any law.

1947. How do you proceed to eject the occupier?—The stipendiary magistrate tells the negro that he must remove in five days.

1948. Supposing the negro refuses?—I have known an instance of the magistrate authorising the door to be locked, and his goods put upon the road; but it scarcely ever happens.

1949. You say that practically there is no express contract between the employer and the labourer?—They all understand what rate of wages they are to get.

1950. What is the implied contract; what are the wages paid?—From 1 *s.* 8 *d.* to 2 *s.* a day for a common field task.

1951. Is there any verbal agreement as to the duration of his work upon the estate?—When a man gets the occupation of a house, he is expected, at all events, to work one month; but there is no very distinct understanding upon the subject.

1952. What is your opinion as to the expediency of establishing in British Guiana a system of rent, to be paid by the labourers when they occupy land?—I think it would have a very good effect, could you get the labourers to rent houses and lands; but all attempts to induce them to do so have hitherto failed.

1953. Do you know why it is that they object to become tenants of land and houses

houses paying a rent?—They prefer sitting rent free, as they have always been in the habit of doing.

1954. If they paid rent, would there not be a proportionate increase in the amount of their wages?—It would be very advantageous to the planter if rent were paid, and the whole amount of wages defined in money.

1955. What are the wages you pay to the labourers?—The lowest rate of wages I ever heard of was 1*s.* 5*d.* sterling; a great many people, at that time, gave 5*d.* more.

1956. Was that the general rate of wages?—It was.

1957. Was that rate of wages paid in consideration of a day's labour, or in consideration of a given task?—In consideration of a given task, a task of 7½ hours.

1958. Do you mean a specified quantity of labour, which was generally performed in 7½ hours?—Yes.

1959. What was the quantity of field labour so to be done?—I cannot speak precisely as to those points.

1960. When you used the word "task," you mean a specified quantity of field labour?—A specified quantity of field labour; 75 or 80 rods of weeding.

1961. With regard to the labourers employed in the processes of manufacturing sugar, are they paid by the job or by the day?—By the day.

1962. At what rate?—I cannot exactly say what rate; they got about an extra bit, or 5*d.* more; and they also got provisions when so employed; they were fed during the day at the works.

1963. Had they any allowances besides food?—At that time there were allowances given to all the negroes.

1964. In that case how many hours' labour were performed when they worked by the day instead of by task?—They came in general about eight in the morning, and their work was generally over by three o'clock; but I have known them, upon special occasions, later. Six is the hour they ought to begin at; but I never saw a negro at work at that hour.

1965. Have they a rest during the day between eight and three?—Yes; they have time to eat their plantains and fish.

1966. Then the number of hours' work by a day-labourer is not greater than is consumed in the performance of a task?—No; a task may be performed in a very few hours. It ought to take seven hours and a half; but it does not take more than three or four.

1967. Why ought it to take more time than it actually requires?—It was calculated at seven hours and a half.

1968. Do you mean that the difference is caused by the slovenly manner in which the work is done?—Certainly it is; the work could easily be done, and done well in seven hours and a half.

1969. Do you mean that if the work is properly performed it ought to occupy an industrious man seven hours and a half?—The greater part of that time; but slurring over the work they get through it much quicker.

1970. Have the planters any redress in the event of the work being done in so slovenly a manner?—The scarcity of hands is so very great, that they are often afraid to go to the magistrate.

1971. In the event of their going to the magistrate to complain of the work being done in a slovenly manner, has the magistrate power to punish a man who so neglects his work?—I should think he has.

1972. Is that course ever resorted to?—A complaint is frequently made, and sometimes if it is a very flagrant case, he gets redress; but there is generally a leaning towards the negro in the decisions of the magistrates.

1973. In what way does he get redress?—The negro is told that he must do it over again; but that very seldom happens; the planter has often not courage to go before the magistrate with a complaint.

1974. When you say that the magistrates have generally a leaning towards the labourers, do you mean that the planters cannot get justice done to them by the stipendiary magistrates?—I do not think they get full justice.

1975. Is it your opinion that the charge of partiality applies generally to the stipendiary magistrates, or only to some of them, with respect to whom particular

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facts have come to your knowledge?—Some magistrates are considered to act more justly than others.

1976. Sir *C. Douglas.*] In consequence of their performing the task of seven hours and a half so quickly, do they obtain a second task?—They were encouraged to ask for a second task, and it was a very common practice to pay them a little more for the second task.

1977. *Chairman.*] According to your statement, is not the encouraging men to ask for a second task, in fact, an encouragement to them to do their work in a slovenly manner?—Decidedly.

1978. Is it not bad policy, on the part of the planters, to reward men for doing their work ill?—Certainly.

1979. Does not it virtually come to that?—It does.

1980. In cases of ejectment, where labourers cease to work upon the estate and are ejected, what is the practice with regard to any crops which they may have growing upon the estate?—He is either allowed to reap his crop, or it is appraised and he is paid for it. When that is the case the planter is obliged to give an unruly and turbulent character access at all times till the crop is reaped, or to avoid that, he is obliged to buy a thing that he has no use for.

1981. How often are the payments of wages made?—Once a week; sometimes once a fortnight.

1982. In money?—In money.

1983. Do the field-labourers receive any allowances?—They did at one time; but allowances are now abolished.

1984. Are the wages increased in consequence of taking off the allowances?—I believe not.

1985. Is there any system of allowances with the view of encouraging industry and good behaviour?—It is understood now that all allowances of whatever kind are abolished.

1986. Does a man receive the same rate of wages whether his work is well or ill done?—Yes.

1987. He is paid with equal punctuality?—He is paid with equal punctuality.

1988. And that system arises from the planters being afraid to offend the labourers by taking notice of the bad manner in which their work is done?—Quite so.

1989. Mr. *V. Stuart.*] When you say that it is understood that all allowances are abolished, who are they abolished by?—By the planters.

1990. But it is open to them, if they choose it, to make allowances?—Yes; and I have no doubt some of them will do so.

1991. Mr. *Godson.*] Do not they do so for good behaviour; as, for instance, by giving them herrings, in consequence of having done their work well?—No; formerly in the colony such allowances were very frequent; but now the planters have come to an agreement that they will give none.

1992. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Then, whether a man works ill or well, he receives the same encouragement?—Very much the same. If he works very ill indeed, the planter gets rid of him; but in many cases he will allow him to remain upon his estate idle, rather than put him away altogether.

1993. *Chairman.*] Do you think the planters might check the tendency to idleness, by giving increased wages for good work?—The wages have been raised since the commencement of freedom, till they came to a point that we could not afford them.

1994. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Did you ever, in slavery, obtain more than one task in a day?—I was not in the colony during slavery.

1995. *Chairman.*] Is it a common thing for the labourers to make complaints before the stipendiary magistrates against their employers?—Very common.

1996. What is the nature of those complaints?—Very frequently for non-payment of wages.

1997. Do you mean that it is a common thing for the planter to withhold the wages?—If the planter has any reason for it, he will tell the man that he will not pay him the wages; he is then summoned, and the stipendiary magistrate investigates the case.

1998. In the event of the planter having withheld the wages upon the ground of the work having been ill performed, what have you found to be the usual decision

sion of the stipendiary magistrate in such cases?—I have very seldom seen a man desired to do his task over again, and I never knew an instance of any reduction being made from his wages.

1999. You mean that it is usual, whatever the performance of the work may have been, for the magistrate to enforce the full payment of the stipulated wages?—Quite so. I have seen instances where a man was desired to do his work over again, but very rarely.

2000. In that case the work would have to be re-done without any payment?—Yes.

2001. But it is to that general system of decisions that you adverted, when you said that you thought the leaning of the magistrates was in favour of the labourers?—Yes.

2002. Did you find a disinclination on the part of the proprietors to make complaints before the magistrates?—Very great.

2003. Does that arise from a dread on their part of offending the labourers, or from an apprehension that the magistrates will not do justice to them?—Principally from a dread of offending the labourers, I think.

2004. You have said that the work on sugar and coffee plantations is principally performed by job?—It is.

2005. Is the field work in any case done by day-labour?—I never knew it done by day-labour.

2006. Is it the custom for the labourers to begin work at what hour they please, and to leave off at what hour they please, provided they do the task in the day?—It is.

2007. Of the labourers employed upon your estates, can you say how many were slaves upon them before the Emancipation Act?—I cannot tell exactly; but there are a great number now upon them who were formerly slaves thereon.

2008. Who are still remaining working upon the estate?—Yes; some of them went away, and returned again.

2009. What proportion of women and children have you upon the estate?—I should think the proportion between the sexes is very much the same as in this country.

2010. Do you find that the women work well upon the estate?—Yes, they do.

2011. Do they do as much work as the men?—No, but of late they have been better behaved than the men; they are easier kept in order.

2012. Do they work more regularly?—Yes.

2013. Have you found the children work?—They were beginning to work; the young Creoles who remained upon the estate were beginning to work.

2014. Of what age?—From 12 to 18.

2015. There was no indisposition on their part to work?—There was formerly, but it was beginning to be overcome, and a number were beginning to work.

2016. Were you in British Guiana during slavery?—I was not.

2017. Then you can merely judge by what you have heard of the state of things at that period?—Of course.

2018. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] You were co-proprietor of those estates at that time?—Yes.

2019. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Have you any local magistrates in British Guiana?—There are stipendiary magistrates.

2020. *Chairman.*] Did you, when you were in Demerara, hear any complaints that the time occupied in the different stages of manufacturing sugar was longer than it was formerly?—I heard a great many.

2021. In what way did you hear that the planters were injured by that circumstance?—The estate made a loss at the end of the year. A far less quantity of work is performed in each stage of the cultivation, and its quality is not so good; the effect has been the abandonment of a large proportion of the cultivation, and the slovenly working of what remains has caused a falling off in the production since 1837 of more than a half. The income of the proprietors has also been gradually falling off in consequence, and I have not been able to hear of a single estate in the districts of Demerary and Essequibo which paid its expenses last year. I am co-proprietor of five estates situated in these districts, and the loss

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upon them, for the year ending 30th April 1842, amounts to 13,699 *l.*, over and above all interest upon the capital invested.

2022. You say that the effect has been the abandonment of a large proportion of cultivation; have any portions of your own estates been abandoned?—A considerable proportion of it has been abandoned.

2023. Do you mean that whole estates have been abandoned, or that you have diminished the extent of cultivation upon each estate?—No estate belonging to myself has been abandoned entirely, but the extent of cultivation has been very much diminished.

2024. Do you know of instances of whole estates being abandoned?—I know one instance of an estate that formerly belonged to myself, now completely abandoned, as far as sugar is concerned; it was an estate upon which both sugar and coffee were grown; there is now a little coffee grown upon it.

2025. Are large portions of it entirely abandoned?—There are.

2026. Have those portions been taken mostly by squatting negroes?—Not by squatting negroes; but the present proprietor has sold small lots to negroes.

2027. How are they used by them?—They build their houses on them and cultivate provisions.

2028. Are they purchased by individuals, or by a number united together as a company?—By individuals.

2029. To what extent are those purchases in general?—The general size of a building lot is half an acre.

2030. Do you find, in the case of a negro having purchased half an acre of land, that he will devote that half acre to the growth of provisions, or to the cultivation of sugar or coffee?—Invariably provisions; I never knew a negro cultivate canes, except two or three stocks for the purpose of eating.

2031. Is not the soil of Demerara very fertile?—It is; but now its fertility is thrown away for want of labour to cultivate it.

2032. For how many years do you cut ratoons in Demerara?—I believe canes have been known to ratoon in Demerara 40 years.

2033. What is the usual growth of ratoons?—I cannot say exactly, but I should say 20 or 25 years; they supply them during that time. When a stock gives way it should be supplied with a new plant.

2034. Mr. *Howard.*] In what part of the colony are your estates?—In the district of Essequibo.

2035. *Chairman.*] Is the whole of British Guiana equally fertile?—Not the whole of it; there is a difference of soil.

2036. But the whole is a very fertile district?—All the borders of the rivers and sea-coasts are very fertile.

2037. For the most part a flat country?—Quite flat.

2038. Is the work bestowed by the labourers on the plantations less continuous than it was during the period of slavery?—The labour bestowed upon the cultivation is as little continuous as you can imagine anything to be.

2039. Did you hear great complaints upon that subject while you were in the country?—Yes, very great complaints.

2040. Did you find that the produce of the estate was very much diminished in consequence of the diminution in the number of labourers?—Very much; I have seen a whole field of canes rot upon the ground in consequence of the want of labour.

2041. Mr. *Howard.*] What are the names of your estates?—Enterprise, Doorenhaagh, Endeavour, Aurora, and Annandale.

2042. Are any of those estates mentioned in the papers furnished by the Colonial Office?—I think some of them must be among the 62 estates reported on. I read the report in the colonial papers, but not in the Blue Book. The attorney for some of them was a member of the committee.

2043. What is the situation of the estates?—Three of them are situated in the island of Leguan, and two of them upon the Arabian coast.

2044. Have you had any extraordinary expenses in the cultivation of those estates?—There have been extraordinary expenses this year, but they were occasioned by the wear and tear of the last 10 years.

2045. What sort of expenses?—Building negro houses, repairing wharfs, and things

things of that kind: there have been no new works, but the repairs have been rather extraordinary; probably of the 13,699*l.* I mentioned, you may put down five to extra expenses.

2046. *Chairman.*] Will you state how the cultivation of the estate, or the manufacture of produce, was diminished in consequence of the labour not being continuous?—The effect of labour not being continuous is loss of crop, to a certain extent. Previous operations are thrown away if not followed up by regular cleaning, trashing, and if the drains and navigation peculiar to the cultivation of this colony are not attended to at the proper time, which has not been the case for the last three years, certain loss follows. I have frequently seen whole fields of cane, where not altogether abandoned from the want of continuous labour, yet so much injured as to yield less than a hogshead per acre instead of two or three; and in January 1841 I saw on Sans Souci Estate, in Waakenham, 70 acres of land on which the canes had been allowed to rot on the ground for want of hands to cut them. These would in former times have yielded from 150 to 200 hogsheads; and that year the estate made only 100 hogsheads, or 75 tons of sugar instead of 180 tons, the average of the years of apprenticeship. The loss of money by this falling off could not be less than 1,500*l.* or 2,000*l.* I have also seen canes allowed to spoil, although cut and at the mill, because the people would not grind them.

2047. Does the land in that part of British Guiana require draining?—Invariably, in every part of it.

2048. Does the draining require to be often renewed?—It requires to be cleaned out.

2049. Is not the produce of estates in Demerara very much conveyed by means of canals?—Invariably.

2050. Does that fact enable you to cultivate at a cheaper rate than in other colonies?—The original formation of those canals was very expensive, but I should think under a proper system they would tend to decrease the expense of cultivation.

2051. Do they require much outlay to keep them in repair?—A great deal.

2052. Supposing labour to be abundant, what ought to be the produce of cane-land in British Guiana?—Cane-land properly cultivated ought to yield two or three hogsheads an acre.

2053. Do you speak of fresh plants or ratoons?—I speak of both.

2054. Are you competent to state the details of the cultivation?—I am not a practical planter.

2055. Have you employed immigrants upon your plantation?—No; I was not fortunate enough to have any of our estates mentioned as a proper locality.

2056. To what do you attribute the fact of your not having had any sent to you?—The governor recommended certain estates as proper places for them to go to, and ours were not among the number.

2057. There have been immigrants both from Africa and from India to British Guiana?—There have.

2058. Are you now speaking of the African immigrants or of the Coolies?—I am speaking of the African immigrants.

2059. Have you had any Coolies?—None.

2060. Are you in a condition to give the Committee a detailed statement of the mode of cultivating a sugar plantation until the canes are ripe?—My short stay in the colony does not entitle me to enter into such details; I shall state, however, that no stranger can form a correct opinion as regards their system, because the want of labour has prevented the planter from pursuing that system which he otherwise would have done and formerly followed out; with an abundance of labour the system would doubtless be altered; the quantity of the staple article, sugar, would then be increased, and its quality would be improved; other articles would receive attention, and again become of importance.

2061. Has the use of machinery been introduced in British Guiana to any great extent?—To a very great extent indeed; machinery, of the best description, is in considerable use.

2062. To a greater extent than in the other West India colonies?—Yes; from the nature of the country.

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2063. Have you been in any other of the West India colonies?—I have been in Granada, St. Vincent, and Trinidad.

2064. Do you think it would be possible to increase the quantity of machinery now in use in British Guiana?—I think it would.

2065. Do you think it would be possible to reduce the quantity of cane-land now in cultivation upon an estate, with the view of obtaining an equal return from a smaller quantity of land, by increased skill and labour?—I think, under present circumstances it is not The quantity of land in cultivation has already been very much reduced upon almost every estate, and that too with a very great deterioration in the quality of the cultivation of what remains. As a proof of what I state, there were, in 1841, 758 acres of canes cut upon my estates, and they only yielded 615 hogsheads, or about 500 tons; whereas the same estates in 1837 had 1,041 acres of canes, which yielded 1,656 hogsheads of sugar, or about 1,330 tons, being a difference of 830 tons. I therefore think that decreasing the cultivation, without being certain that the reduced quantity will be properly cultivated, would be of no avail; were the same quantity of labour honestly applied to a smaller quantity of land, there is no doubt the return would be greater in proportion; at present one cannot get work properly and honestly executed at all.

2066. What is the description of machinery which has been introduced into Guiana?—Every estate has got a steam-engine upon it, and cane-carriers, megass-carriers, and various mechanical contrivances of that kind are in common use.

2067. Is the plough in extensive use?—Not in extensive use; the horse-plough has not been found to answer; the drains through the fields prevent the horses from going along; a field cannot be ploughed longitudinally there, it must be ploughed across.

2068. Do you mean that they are afraid of injuring the drain by the plough?—Not only that, but the drains are so wide that the horse cannot step across them.

2069. The fields are generally cultivated by manual labour?—They are, and to a great extent must continue to be so. A gentleman has got a patent for a steam-plough, but it is not yet altogether perfect.

2070. Mr. *Godson*.] Has it been used in Demerara?—It has been tried, but it is still imperfect.

2071. Is that Mr. Hall's?—No; Mr. Alexander Macrae is the patentee; he has now sold his patent to Sir Michael MacTurk.

2072. Is that the same that was used in Ireland upon some bog land?—No. There is a steam-engine placed in an iron punt, which turns a drum; another punt is placed opposite, furnished with a wheel to correspond with the drum, and the ploughs are dragged between the two punts, by a rope working on the drum and wheel.

2073. Can you furnish the Committee with a detailed statement of the ordinary current expenses and charges incurred upon a sugar plantation?—I have got returns of the expenses of several estates.

2074. Are those returns of the expenses upon your own estates?—Yes; they are not all quite perfect, from the accounts not having come home.

2075. Will you read to the Committee any statement of the expenses that you have in your possession, which you can state to be quite perfect?—Here is one; a return from Plantation Enterprise.

2076. What is the acreage of the estate?—I cannot say; it is a large estate, probably 300 or 400 acres.

2077. Can you give it no nearer than that?—No; I am not sure that there is a plan of the estate; I should say 400 acres; it is not all in cultivation.

2078. *Chairman*.] What proportion of that 400 acres is in cultivation?—In 1841 there were 145 acres in cane cultivation; that was the crop I alluded to in stating the loss.

2079. How was the remainder employed?—Lying waste; the negroes' provision grounds were upon it.

2080. What proportion would be occupied by the negroes' provision grounds?—Perhaps 25 or 30 acres.

2081. Was the rest lying waste from the necessity of letting it lie waste after long cultivation, or from the want of labourers to cultivate it?—From the want of labourers to cultivate it.

2082. Was

2082. Was that an estate that had been in cultivation during slavery?—Not long; the first full crop upon it was in 1832. Upon this particular estate there has not been a great deal abandoned, not more than 50 or 60 acres.

2083. You say that 145 acres were in cultivation, and 25 used as provision grounds, and 50 or 60 thrown out of cultivation; was the remainder primitive wood, which had never been brought into cultivation?—Yes.

2084. Fresh land upon which you might turn at any moment when it was desirable?—Yes.

2085. When was it first planted with canes?—The first canes were planted upon the estate in 1830.

2086. Consequently, none of that land has ceased to be cultivated, upon the ground of being exhausted?—None of it.

2087. Will you state the expenses of the cultivation of that estate per acre?—Upon the average of the years 1832 and 1833, the "Colonial expenditure, including salaries, plantation stores, taxes, &c. was 1,757 *l.*; supplies from Great Britain, 892 *l.*: total cost of producing crop, 2,650 *l.* Sums to be deducted for proceeds of rum, molasses, &c. &c. &c., 1,862 *l.*; cost of producing crop of sugar, 787 *l.*; amount of crop, 333 hogsheads: average cost per cwt. 3*s.* 2*d.*" That is the average for the two last years of slavery. I shall now read the average of the three last years of apprenticeship, 1835, 1836, and 1837: "Colonial expenditure, 2,663 *l.*; supplies from Great Britain, 1,112 *l.*: total cost of producing crop, 3,775 *l.* Sums to be deducted for proceeds of rum, molasses, &c. 2,275 *l.*; cost of producing crop of sugar, 1,500 *l.*; crop of sugar produced, 368 hogsheads: average cost, 5*s.* 5*d.* per cwt."

2088. Mr. *Howard.*] What do you include in the "supplies from Great Britain?"—Coals, repairs to engine, &c., casks, tools, hoops, nails, paints, oats, bricks, tiles, slates, and numerous other articles.

2089. Do you expect much benefit from the alteration in the customs duties?—Not upon imports from Great Britain.

2090. Mr. *G. Berkeley.*] In your calculation of the cost, do you include interest of money?—Not at all; had I included interest, it would have amounted to a much larger sum. I shall now state the expenses upon the average of the three last years: "Amount of wages paid in money, 2,257 *l.*; allowances of fish, medical attendance, &c. in addition to money wages, 312 *l.*: total cost of labour, 2,568 *l.* Colonial expenditure, 2,127 *l.*; supplies from Great Britain, 607 *l.*: total cost of producing crop, 5,302 *l.* Sums to be deducted for proceeds of rum, molasses, &c. 1,688 *l.*; cost of producing crop of sugar, 3,613 *l.*; crop, 183 hogsheads: average cost of production per cwt., 26*s.* 9*d.*"

2091. *Chairman.*] Will you deliver in those accounts?—(*The same were delivered in, as follows:*)

RETURN of Cost of Production of Sugar on Plantation *Endeavour*, Colony of *Demerary*.

STATE of PEOPLE.	YEARS.	LABOURERS. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Amount of Wages paid in Money.	Allowances of Fish, Medical Attendance, &c. in addition to Money Wages.	Total Cost of Labour.	Colonial Expenditure, including Salaries, Plantation Stores, Taxes, &c.	Supplies from Great Britain.	Total Cost of Producing Crop.	Sums received for Rent to be deducted.	Sums to be deducted for proceeds of Rum, Molasses, &c.	Cost of Producing Crop of Sugar.	Crop of Sugar Produced.	Average Cost of Producing Crop of Sugar per cwt.
Slavery:						£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	casks. cwt	s. d.
	1831	107	68	77	252	- -	- -	- -	2,600	600	3,200	- -	835	2,365	242 = 3,630	13 -
	1832	105	69	79	253	- -	- -	- -	1,700	1,500	3,200	- -	1,050	2,150	284 = 4,260	10 1
	1833	101	67	78	246	- -	- -	- -	2,485	830	3,315	- -	1,940	1,375	346 = 5,190	5 4
	Totals	–	–	–	751	- -	- -	- -	6,785	2,930	9,715	- -	3,825	5,890	872 = 13,080	28 5
	Average of Three Years	–	–	–	250	- -	- -	- -	2,261	977	3,238	- -	1,275	1,963	290 = 4,360	9 6
	Apprenticeship, from 1st August 1834	100	66	53	219	- -	- -	- -	2,380	1,135	3,515	- -	1,305	2,210	266 = 3,990	11 1
Apprenticeship:																
	1835	98	69	48	215	- -	- -	- -	2,260	1,030	3,290	- -	840	2,450	266 = 3,990	12 3
	1836	91	68	47	206	- -	- -	- -	1,860	1,055	2,915	- -	2,180	735	214 = 3,210	4 7
	1837	92	71	37	200	- -	- -	- -	3,190	755	3,945	- -	1,860	2,085	300 = 4,500	9 3
	Totals	–	–	–	621	- -	- -	- -	7,310	2,840	10,150	- -	4,880	5,270	780 = 11,700	26 1
	Average of Three Years	–	–	–	207	- -	- -	- -	2,437	947	3,383	- -	1,627	1,757	260 = 3,900	8 8
	Freedom, from 1st August 1838	89	70	36	195	For 5 months. 740	For 5 months. 295	For 5 months. 1,035	2,720	490	4,245	- -	2,100	2,145	190 = 2,850	15 -
Freedom:																
	1839	89	70	36	195	2,015	680	2,695	1,385	410	4,490	- -	1,490	3,000	144 = 2,160	27 9
	1840	67	74	72	213	1,915	330	2,245	1,585	535	4,365	- -	2,045	2,320	135 = 2,025	22 11
	1841	57	46	53	156	1,980	160	2,140	1,340 *	180 *	3,660	- -	580	3,080	96 = 1,440	42 9
	Totals	–	–	–	564	5,910	1,170	7,080	4,310	1,125	12,515	- -	4,115	8,400	375 = 5,625	93 5
	Average of Three Years	–	–	–	188	1,970	390	2,360	1,437	375	4,172	- -	1,372	2,800	125 = 1,875	31 1

* Besides 1,150 *l.* for cottages and machinery, &c.

The allowances noted are exclusive of the usual allowance of rum.

RETURN of Cost of Production of Sugar, on Plantation Aurora, Colony of Demerary.

STATE of PEOPLE.	YEARS.	LABOURERS. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Amount of Wages paid in Money.	Allowances of Fish, Medical Attendance, &c. in addition to Money Wages.	Total Cost of Labour.	Colonial Expenditure, including Salaries, Plantation Stores, Taxes, &c.	Supplies from Great Britain.	Total Cost of Producing Crop.	Sums received for Rent to be deducted.	Sums to be deducted for Proceeds of Rum, Molasses, &c.	Cost of Producing Crop of Sugar.	Crop of Sugar Produced.	Average Cost of Producing Crop of Sugar per Cwt.
Slavery:						£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	*Casks.* *Cwts.*	*s.* *d.*
	1831	81	70	65	216	- -	- -	- -	1,850	900	2,750	- -	1,125	1,625	390 = 5,850	5 7
	1832	76	69	66	211	- -	- -	- -	1,905	930	2,835	- -	1,105	1,730	340 = 5,100	6 9
	1833	74	67	67	208	- -	- -	- -	2,135	725	2,860	- -	1,750	1,110	410 = 6,150	3 7
	Totals	–	–	–	635	- -	- -	- -	5,890	2,555	8,445	- -	3,980	4,465	1,140 = 17,100	15 11
	Average of Three Years	–	–	–	212	- -	- -	- -	1,963	852	2,815	- -	1,326	1,488	380 = 5,700	5 4
	Apprenticeship, from 1st August 1834	78	69	55	202	- -	- -	- -	2,780	900	3,680	- -	1,350	2,330	320 = 4,800	9 8
	Apprenticeship:															
	1835	76	68	59	203	- -	- -	- -	1,940	1,200	3,140	- -	1,105	2,035	336 = 5,040	8 1
	1836	70	64	62	196	- -	- -	- -	3,030	1,050	4,080	- -	1,920	2,160	406 = 6,090	7 1
	1837	67	61	61	189	- -	- -	- -	2,815	985	3,800	- -	1,805	1,995	406 = 6,090	6 6
	Totals	–	–	–	588	- -	- -	- -	7,785	3,235	11,020	- -	4,830	6,190	1,148 = 17,220	21 8
	Average of Three Years	–	–	–	196	- -	- -	- -	2,595	1,078	3,673	- -	1,610	2,063	383 = 5,740	7 3
	Freedom, from 1st August 1838	51	16	15	82	For 5 months. 830	For 5 months. 180	For 5 months. 1,010	3,365	1,015	5,390	- -	1,505	3,885	311 = 4,665	16 8
	Freedom:															
	1839	57	57	41	155	1,900	355	2,255	2,220	605	5,080	- -	1,380	3,700	231 = 3,465	21 4
	1840	63	55	15	133	1,845	340	2,185	1,410	530	4,125	- -	2,040	2,085	246 = 3,690	11 4
	1841	87	71	22	180	2,010	405	2,415	1,795 *	375 *	4,585	- -	585	4,000	112 = 1,680	47 9
	Totals	–	–	–	468	5,755	1,100	6,855	5,425	1,510	13,790	- -	4,005	9,785	589 = 8,835	80 5
	Average of Three Years	–	–	–	156	1,918	367	2,285	1,808	503	4,597	- -	1,335	3,262	196 = 2,945	26 10

* Besides 2,330 *l.* for cottages, punts, &c.

The allowances noted are exclusive of the usual allowance of rum.

RETURN of Cost of Production of Sugar on Plantation *Enterprise*, Colony of *Demerary*.

STATE of PEOPLE.	YEARS.	LABOURERS. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Amount of Wages paid in Money.	Allowances of Fish, Medical Attendance, &c. in addition to Money Wages.	Total Cost of Labour.	Colonial Expenditure, including Salaries, Plantation Stores, Taxes, &c.	Supplies from Great Britain.	Total Cost of Producing Crop.	Sums received for Rent to be deducted.	Sums to be deducted for Proceeds of Rum, Molasses, &c.	Cost of Producing Crop of Sugar.	Crop of Sugar Produced.	Average Cost of Producing Crop of Sugar per Cwt.
Slavery:						£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	*Casks.* *Cwt.*	*s.* *d.*
1831		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1832		70	70	76	216	- -	- -	- -	1,340	930	2,270	- -	1,435	835	301 = 4,515	3 8 *
1833		67	66	77	210	- -	- -	- -	2,175	855	3,030	- -	2,290	740	365 = 5,475	2 8
Totals		—	—	—	426	- -	- -	- -	3,515	1,785	5,300	- -	3,725	1,575	666 = 9,990	6 4
Average of Two Years		—	—	—	213	- -	- -	- -	1,757	892	2,650	- -	1,862	787	333 = 4,995	3 2
Apprenticeship, from 1st August 1834		62	65	81	208	- -	- -	- -	2,280	1,080	3,360	- -	1,350	2,010	300 = 4,500	8 11
Apprenticeship:																
1835		57	63	80	200	- -	- -	- -	2,365	1,205	3,570	- -	1,435	2,135	370 = 5,550	7 8
1836		65	71	67	203	- -	- -	- -	2,950	1,035	3,985	- -	2,510	1,475	364 = 5,460	5 5
1837		63	68	64	195	- -	- -	- -	2,675	1,095	3,770	- -	2,880	890	370 = 5,550	3 3
Totals		—	—	—	598	- -	- -	- -	7,990	3,335	11,325	- -	6,825	4,500	1,104 = 16,560	16 4
Average of Three Years		—	—	—	199	- -	- -	- -	2,663	1,112	3,775	- -	2,275	1,500	368 = 5,520	5 5
Freedom, from 1st August 1838		52	55	24	131	For 5 months. 710	For 5 months. 215	For 5 months. 925	2,345	605	3,875	- -	2,325	1,550	259 = 3,870	8 -
Freedom:																
1839		44	52	16	112	2,085	360	2,445	2,230†	340	5,015	- -	2,150	2,865	200 = 3,000	19 1
1840		50	42	40	132	2,200	330	2,530	2,270	870	5,670	- -	1,800	3,870	157 = 2,355	32 10
1841		65	72	60	197	2,485	245	2,730	1,880‡	610 ‡	5,220	- -	1,115	4,105	192 = 2,880	28 6
Totals		—	—	—	441	6,770	935	705	6,380	1,820	15,905	- -	5,065	10,840	549 = 8,235	80 5
Average of Three Years		—	—	—	147	2,257	312	2,568	2,127	607	5,302	- -	1,688	3,613	183 = 2,745	26 9

* First full crop since settlement of estate.

† Besides 1,450 *l.* for cottages.

‡ Besides 2,245 *l.* for cottages, machinery, &c.

The allowances noted are exclusive of the usual allowance of rum.

N.B.—Enterprise is a new estate, which accounts for the low rate of cost of production.

2092. Will you explain what you mean by the words "Colonial expenditure?"—Salaries to attorney, manager, overseers, and other white men; wages to labourers, taxes, materials for repairing buildings, packages, &c. &c.

2093. By colonial expenditure, do you mean every kind of expenditure which is incurred in the colony?—Yes.

2094. In that expenditure you include the taxes?—Yes, and salaries.

2095. Can you state what proportion of your expenditure is in the shape of salaries?—I cannot exactly; but the proportion is considerable.

2096. Can you state what was the quantity of sugar made upon your five estates in each of the three last years of the apprenticeship, and what the quantity has been since the 1st of January 1839?—The five estates of which I am proprietor made, during the three last years of the apprenticeship, 3,525 tons. Since the 1st of January 1839 they have only made 1,664 tons, being less than one-half. The loss at the current price may be estimated at upwards of 40,000*l.*

2097. Have there been any peculiarities in the seasons for the last three years which would tend to account for that?—No; the seasons have been fair average seasons.

2098. What is your explanation of this great loss?—Entirely from the want of continuous labour.

2099. Have the actual number of labourers resident upon your estate diminished since emancipation?—They have. During the apprenticeship the average number was 972 upon the five estates, and since that period it has been reduced to 704: taken from the estates' returns.

2100. Mr. *Godson.*] At the time of the emancipation in Demerara, were there not a great quantity of males in proportion to the females?—I believe not.

2101. Were not the negroes principally aged persons?—No, they were not; I suppose about the same proportion existed then that exists now.

2102. *Chairman.*] Can you furnish a statement as to the cost of production during each of those respective periods?—On the estates in which I am interested, the average cost of production, without reference to the capital invested during the three last years of slavery, was 6*s.* 5*d.* per cwt.; during the three last years of the apprenticeship it was 8*s.* 9*d.*; and it cannot now be stated at less than from 30*s.* to 35*s.*, although the average of the three years of freedom does not exceed 27*s.* 5*d.* on these particular estates.

2103. Is that immense difference to be accounted for by the increase in the rate of wages?—Not only by the increase in the rate of wages but also by the diminution of the production occasioned by the want of continuous labour.

2104. The expenses not having diminished in proportion?—Yes; and by the other expenses not having diminished.

2105. Have you considered whether it is possible to reduce any of the expenses incurred in the cultivation of sugar?—I have considered that.

2106. In what respects do you think such reductions could be made?—I do not think we could diminish our expenses much by any means within our own reach.

2107. Have you particularly directed your attention to that subject?—I have.

2108. Mr. *Godson.*] When you speak of the number on the estate having diminished from 900 to 700, are there any means of ascertaining whether the negro population generally in the colony has decreased?—I believe it has rather increased than decreased. A census is now being taken.

2109. The negro population of the colony, you think, has not diminished?—I think not.

2110. Under those circumstances, do you think it is possible to hire a number of labourers equal to the number of slaves you had during the time of slavery?—No; it has been found impossible to do so, from the very great competition for labourers, and the unwillingness of the people to work.

2111. When you say that you think the population has not diminished, do you include the Coolies and the imported Africans?—No, I do not allude to the immigrants at all. I think it has increased without reference to immigration.

2112. Mr. *Howard.*] Is the situation of your estate healthy?—It is very healthy.

2113. Mr. *Barclay.*] What number of immigrants have arrived in British Guiana?—I believe about 9,000. Some of them, I have no doubt, have returned.

2114. How many of those were Indians?—I cannot say.

2115. How

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2115. How have those immigrants laboured?—I have had no experience of that. No Africans had arrived when I left the colony.

2116. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Have you a sufficient amount of labour in the colony if you could get it when you require it?—There is a sufficient amount of labour in the colony to grow a great deal more sugar than they actually do grow.

2117. As much as was procured during slavery?—If they worked as much as they did then they should certainly produce as much.

2118. *Chairman.*] You have stated that the labouring population of the colony is at least 9,000 more than it was during slavery; are there many of the labourers who will not work at all?—A great many of the labourers have become tradesmen, and do not work in the field. There has been a very great demand for carpenters in particular.

2119. Are there many who are able to maintain themselves entirely by the produce of their own land, and so be independent of labour?—I should think a great many.

2120. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Can you form any estimate of the proportion of diminution of labour at the present time as compared with slavery?—I cannot; but it must be very great, judging from the falling off of the crop, notwithstanding every means having been used to procure labour.

2121. *Chairman.*] What remedy, do you think, would best meet the deficiency you find in the supply of labour?—I think that immigration to such an extent as would insure continuous labour, and keep up cultivation to its former extent, would go far to remedy the evil.

2122. Would you suggest any other remedy besides immigration?—A law to regulate and enforce contracts for labour would be of great service.

2123. Do you think immigration alone would be sufficient, without any law to regulate contracts for labour?—I should think not.

2124. Do you think, looking at the present labouring population of the colony, that if adequate laws were passed to enforce contracts for labour, any extensive immigration would still be requisite?—I think most decidedly very extensive immigration would be requisite.

2125. Which do you think are most suitable for labourers in British Guiana; the Africans or the Coolies?—The African race, till lately, were found the most suitable; but the Coolies have now been found to answer as well.

2126. Do you find that the climate suits the constitution of the Coolies as well as the Africans?—They have been generally healthy.

2127. Had you any Coolies upon your estates?—No.

2128. What has been found to be the habits of the Coolies?—There were upon an estate in my immediate neighbourhood 50 of them, and their manager told me that they were uncommonly well-conducted people.

2129. What were their habits of industry; would they work more steadily than the African population?—They did their work more steadily; and at a period when the labourers upon the estate struck, the Coolies continued working.

2130. Were they receiving the same wages as the Africans?—I believe they were.

2131. Were there any complaints with regard to their mode of doing their work?—There were no complaints.

2132. Do they work better than the Africans?—If put to it, an African could do more perhaps, but the Coolies worked more continuously.

2133. Did the Coolies work more continuously, and therefore execute more work in a day than the Africans were willing to do?—You could depend upon their labour when you could not depend upon the labour of the Africans.

2134. Are you aware whether the Coolies have made any complaints of the treatment which they have received upon the British Guiana estates?—I am not aware of any.

2135. Are you aware of any subjects of dispute having been referred by the Coolies, or the Coolies' employers, to the decision of the stipendiary magistrates?—Not of my own knowledge; I cannot say that I ever heard a Coolie make a complaint.

2136. Did you make much inquiry into the condition of the Coolies?—I did.

2137. Can you state whether the Coolies have the same advantages with regard to the occupation of house and land as the African labourers?—They have.

2138. Was it found that they were willing to cultivate the land allowed to them

them for their own advantage?—They did; they grew provisions the same as other people; but they grew none for sale that I know of.

2139. Did the 50 Coolies you spoke of supply the deficiency felt upon that estate with regard to labour?—Yes; the estate was considered to be in a good state of cultivation.

2140. Were any number of Africans turned out of employment upon that estate to make room for the Coolies?—I do not know.

2141. Do you know whether the employment of those Coolies upon the estate produced any effect with regard to inducing the Africans, by competition, to work more continuously?—I cannot state whether it did or not; I made no inquiry upon that point.

2142. You had no Coolies upon any of your estates?—None.

2143. Have you ever considered whether it would be advantageous to you to import Coolies?—I think it would be very advantageous.

2144. Have you ever made any arrangement with that view?—No; the period during which we were allowed to import them was very short, and only one or two persons took advantage of it. The Coolies whom I was amongst stated, that they would return to Calcutta, but would come back with their wives and children, and bring plenty of friends with them.

2145. For what period were they engaged in the first instance?—Five years.

2146. Was that contract for five years as between a particular employer and the Coolies, or were the Coolies free to migrate to other estates?—It was between the particular employer and the Coolie.

2147. What redress would that Coolie have to enforce any given amount of wages?—The same redress as any African.

2148. Were they jealous of the Africans?—I think not; they began to associate with the people and some of them attended church.

2149. Has there been any immigration from any other quarter besides Sierra Leone and India?—A very large proportion of the immigrants are from Madeira and some from Malta, others from Barbadoes.

2150. What countrymen are those who come from Madeira and from Malta?—Natives of those places; they became very sickly, and were not found to answer well.

2151. Mr. *Howard.*] Was there much mortality among the Coolies?—Upon some estates there was, but upon others none at all.

2152. Do you know what proportion consisted of emigrants from Madeira and Malta?—I should suppose about 4,000 out of the 9,000.

2153. Were they able to work continuously?—They soon became sickly, and could not work; upon one estate belonging to us there were 80 of them.

2154. Were they able to work at field labour?—They commenced working well; but they soon became sickly, and dispirited.

2155. Was it found that they could work better at the manufacturing processes carried on in the buildings?—I do not know; I think they were not much employed about the buildings, from their not having skill sufficient.

2156. To what extent do you think the supply of sugar from British Guiana might be increased, if there were a sufficient number of immigrants introduced?—It might be increased to almost any extent; the quantity of land fit for growing canes is immense.

2157. Mr. *Godson.*] If you had labour enough, you might supply the whole world?—A considerable part of it.

2158. *Chairman.*] A very small proportion of the colony is in cultivation?—A very small proportion.

2159. Is the rest of the colony in a wild unreclaimed state?—Quite in original bush.

2160. Do you think that, under existing circumstances, there is any actual danger of extensive estates being thrown out of cultivation for want of labour?—I think it is inevitable under present circumstances.

2161. What would be the effect upon the colony if any number of estates were thrown out of cultivation?—The exports would be less, and the taxes would be less; the resources of the colony would be diminished.

2162. What would be the effect, if estates to any extent were thrown out of cultivation, upon the general welfare of the neighbouring population?—So far as the labouring population is concerned, the effect would, I have no doubt, be bad. The abandoned estates on which many of them were born would afford a ready

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location for squatting; and it is more than probable that they would continue to reside on them, and grow provisions: if they did, their civilization and permanent welfare would not be promoted.

2163. Do not you think it is possible, on the other hand, that the increased competition which might arise from a diminished extent of cultivation might give a greater command of labour, and enable the remaining estates to be cultivated to greater advantage?—It might do so.

2164. Have you found that religious and moral instruction has been afforded, to any extent, by the legislature of British Guiana since the commencement of freedom?—Churches and schoolhouses are in the greatest abundance every where, as well as clergymen and schoolmasters.

2165. Have those churches and schoolhouses been erected since the establishment of freedom?—No; but they have been increased since then.

2166. At whose cost have they been erected?—At the cost of the colony; the negroes and the proprietors often assist.

2167. Did you find that there was, on the part of the negroes, a desire to avail themselves of the advantage so given them?—They were very regular in their attendance at church.

2168. Have you found that any great alteration has taken place in the moral habits of the negroes since they obtained freedom?—I did not know them before that time, and I made no particular inquiries upon the subject.

2169. Do you know whether, before that time, it was considered that the negro population were regular in their attendance at church, and anxious to give education to their children?—I believe they were always anxious to go to church; I do not know whether it was a religious motive that took them; I have seen them sitting in the churchyard, and I think they considered it much the same as being in church.

2170. Are they anxious to have their children educated?—They appear to be so.

2171. Are they willing to incur expense for that object?—In some instances I have known them pay for it.

2172. Are there schools upon your estates?—There are, either upon the estate or in the immediate neighbourhood.

2173. Have you, upon your own estates, erected any schools at your own expense?—We have.

2174. Then, in addition to the wages which you pay your labourers, you give the children of those labourers the advantages of education, free of cost?—In some cases; and in others they pay a trifling sum.

2175. By what rule do you regulate your practice in that respect?—We think the better plan is to make them pay.

2176. Then why do not you do that in all instances?—They will not; in some cases we give them schoolhouses, and we guarantee to the schoolmasters certain assistance.

2177. Are the Committee to understand that the negro who pays for the education of his children, derives no greater advantage than the man who is able to pay, and yet does not pay?—Yes.

2178. Then how is it that any of them pay?—Some are better disposed than others.

2179. Merely as matter of honest feeling?—Yes.

2180. You do not enforce it in all cases?—There is a great want of arrangement in Demerara; they do not go upon any system. There is a want of combination amongst the planters upon those points.

2181. Are the Committee to understand, that here also the dread of giving offence to the labourers operates?—Yes, that operates in this case also.

2182. How much is paid for the education of the children by the labourers who do pay?—I do not know how much; it is a mere trifle.

2183. What is the proportion of those that pay to those that do not?—I do not know.

2184. Have you upon the terms you have mentioned, sufficient school accommodation for the whole of the children upon your estates?—Quite sufficient; I do not mean to say that I have a school upon every estate, but where there is not, there is a public school sufficiently near.

2185. Then you trust to the public schools to make up the deficiency of the schools upon the estates?—Yes.

2186. Are those public schools erected at the expense of the colony, or are they erected at the cost of the labourers?—I am not aware of any erected at the expense of the colony or of the labourers, but the Mico Charity has schools throughout the colony.

2187. What charity is that?—It is a body at home that have done a great deal of good by their schools.

2188. Are all the schools that you are acquainted with, either schools erected at the charge of the estate or erected by the Mico Charity?—Yes; or by other charitable individuals.

2189. Do you know of any schools that have been erected at the cost of the negroes themselves?—I do not.

2190. Do you know of any subscription among the negroes for the erection of churches?—Yes; the negroes subscribed very handsomely for the erection of a new parish church on the island of Leguan.

2191. Are they willing to subscribe for the salaries of the clergymen?—They are not called upon to do so unless they are dissenters.

2192. How are the clergymen paid?—They are paid out of the colonial chest.

2193. Do you apply that only to clergymen of the Church of England, or are ministers of all denominations paid out of the colonial fund?—I cannot speak very accurately as to that point; there are other denominations paid out of the colonial fund, but I cannot say what they are.

2194. Do you know any instances in which the salaries of the ministers of religion have been paid by the negroes?—No, I do not.

2195. Do you know whether the occupations and employments of the negroes have been changed since the commencement of freedom?—They have become much more idle.

2196. Do you know any cases of the purchase of land by negroes?—A number of estates have been purchased by negroes; there were also a vast number of small lots, of an acre, or half an acre each.

2197. Estates of what extent?—Estates that formerly made a couple of hundred of hogsheads of sugar.

2198. Have they been purchased by individual negroes or by companies?—By companies.

2199. What number of negroes have constituted such companies?—I do not know.

2200. Do you know what prices have been given?—I cannot say.

2201. Do you know how many years ago the purchase was made?—I believe one was made about a year and a half ago.

2202. Do you know whether that estate has been cultivated since?—None of those estates have been cultivated, except for provisions.

2203. None of those have been cultivated for exportable produce?—Certainly not.

2204. Why have they not?—I cannot say.

2205. With what view do you suppose that those estates were purchased by the negroes?—With the view of affording them a residence and provision grounds.

2206. Can you mention any price which has been given for a large estate of that kind?—I cannot exactly say; but I think 8,000*l.* was given for Plaisance Estate.

2207. Do you know how many negroes combined in that purchase?—I do not; but there were generally from 50 to 100 concerned in such purchases.

2208. How did a body of negroes become possessed of so large a sum as 8,000*l.*?—By the wages they received and by selling their provisions. There are many little pickings they can get about an estate of different kinds that enable them to make money.

2209. Do you think the object of those large purchases was for the sake of affording the purchasers a house and the means of living, rather than the making a profit by the cultivation of sugar?—I think so, as they never attempt to cultivate sugar or any other exportable commodity.

2210. Would they have at command sufficient labour, if they were disposed to do so?—Yes; a hundred able-bodied men could grow a great deal of sugar.

2211. They have purchased estates which were previously in the cultivation of sugar, and thrown them out of cultivation?—Yes.

2212. In that case, they would probably find ratoons upon the estate?—They very soon disappear, unless they are taken care of.

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2213. What are the productions which they principally cultivate upon their own account?—Yams, and many different kinds of vegetables.

2214. Do they cultivate them to a greater extent than what they use for their own families?—Yes, they do.

2215. And find a ready market for what they have to dispose of?—Yes, to any extent at George Town.

2216. Is that found a profitable course of cultivation?—Very profitable.

2217. Do you suppose that course of cultivation is as profitable as it would be to produce sugar?—I cannot say; I should think the sugar would be most profitable, but it would require a much larger capital, of course.

2218. What is your opinion as to the resources of British Guiana in competing with other countries in the production of cane and other tropical produce?—Such are the natural resources of British Guiana, and the vast and superior machinery there established, that I am of opinion that if it were afforded an adequate supply of labour, the colony is capable of competing with any country in the world in tropical productions, but particularly in sugar; of course, coffee and cotton would also be grown.

2219. Mr. *Godson.*] Were not the estates which the negroes chiefly purchased, cotton estates?—No; I know that one of them was a sugar estate.

2220. How soon after they were thus taken to by the negroes, would they become completely useless as sugar estates?—Canes in Demerara are completely useless at the end of 15 months; they ought to be cut when they are a twelvemonth old.

2221. Did you ever know or hear of any instance of negroes cultivating as much as an acre of canes on their own account?—I never heard of their cultivating a yard of canes.

2222. By the word lumber, you were understood to say that you meant planks and shingles?—Planks, shingles, and the framework of houses, &c. &c.

2223. Do not staves for the casks come under the name of lumber?—Yes; but in Demerara they get their coals out in casks, and they require very few staves.

2224. Have you made any calculation so as to form an opinion, from the present state of Demerara, what would be a remunerating price for sugar per cwt. in the English market?—I do not think any one could form an opinion upon that point. Unless we can grow plenty of sugar, no reasonable price will remunerate us.

2225. Assuming that you could grow sugar as you are at present doing, what would be about the average Gazette price that would be remunerating?—I imagine that if the cost of producing sugar there did not exceed 15*s.*, then 60*s.* might remunerate the planter.

2226. When you speak of 60*s.* you include the duty?—Yes.

2227. The colony of Demerara is principally alluvial soil, and very rich?—It is.

2228. In consequence of that, is your mill going round all the year?—Yes; two-thirds of the crop are made in the last three months of the year, probably; but they make sugar at all times in Demerara.

2229. And if you had labour sufficient for your capital, then the supply of sugar would be equal to that from any colony in the world?—Decidedly.

2230. Could you not increase it to almost any extent?—It could be increased to any extent you can imagine.

2231. How many thousand acres are there in the colony?—I do not know.

2231*. In fact, using the word within reason, it is almost unlimited if you had labour in proportion?—Yes.

2232. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] What is the reason of the diminution of coffee and other produce besides sugar?—The negroes do not like that kind of cultivation, they rather prefer working upon the sugar estates.

2233. Since when has that falling off taking place?—Chiefly since the commencement of freedom.

2234. Are those laws and ordinances of which you have spoken, for the guidance of the negro and the planter, understood by all parties; that is, does each party know what they have to trust to?—If an employer complains against a negro it is a toss up whether he gets any redress or not. I mean that the laws are very arbitrary; no one knows what the law is.

2235. That is to say, parties do not know what they have to trust to?—No; the negro expects that he is to get redress.

2236. And so does the planter?—The planter hopes for it.

2237. Are

2237. Are you in a condition at present to give better wages by way of premium when the negroes show an unusual degree of industry?—I think not. The planters are not in a condition at present to be liberal.

2238. Has rum fallen off in proportion to sugar?—It has, in the same proportion.

2239. In the districts of Demerary and Essequibo, in what state is the cultivation of coffee?—I never saw a coffee estate while I was in the colony.

2240. You were understood to state that canes had been left to rot after they had been cut, because the labourers would not do the necessary work; have you known any instance where the sugar-canes, being fit to be cut, the negroes have demanded an advance of price before they would commence cutting the canes?—Yes; and extra allowances.

2241. Have their demands been complied with?—Very frequently they have, from necessity.

2242. After they have cut the canes, have you known the canes left to rot upon the ground, upon a further demand of increased wages?—No; I cannot say that I have.

2243. Has there been a strike for wages lately in Demerara?—There has.

2244. To what extent?—It was a general strike in the districts of Demerary and Essequibo.

2245. Did any of the immigrants at the time remain steady?—I understood from letters, that the Portuguese people had remained pretty steady.

2246. Have the Portuguese immigrants been doing pretty well?—No; they have become very sickly.

2247. Does the climate, generally, agree with the Africans?—Yes, invariably.

2248. Does it agree with the Hill Coolies?—It does.

2249. Do you know that reports have been sent to this country, of the Hill Coolies being in an infirm state of health?—I am aware of it.

2250. Were those reports correct?—They were correct in individual instances, but not generally.

2251. Were they exaggerated?—Yes; having been there myself, I had the means of judging upon that.

2252. Do you know what facilities were given to the Coolies to bring their wives and children with them?—I do not; but now the Coolies themselves say that they will take advantage of any facilities that may be given. Their apprenticeship has not yet terminated; it will soon; and their manager has told me that he has no doubt they will bring their wives and children, and plenty of their friends.

2253. You say that if there were fewer estates in cultivation, those that remained might be better cultivated?—If the negroes could be induced to work upon them.

2254. Is that problematical, in your opinion?—Quite so.

2255. Might not the negroes gain, from that estate so abandoned, partial subsistence, and would not that have the effect of preventing them from labouring altogether?—Yes; they might obtain complete subsistence from an abandoned estate.

2256. Would the effect be good or bad, in a moral point of view, of lessening the number of whites in Demerara?—I should think it would have a bad effect, morally speaking.

2257. Do you know Mr. Porter, of Plantation Enmore?—No, I do not.

2258. Mr. *Howard.*] You think that the negroes would squat upon the abandoned estates; but have not they a great love of finery and dress, and would not they wish to obtain wages in order to procure those luxuries?—If they gave themselves up entirely to cultivate provision grounds they could sell those provisions, and so obtain finery. They are extremely fond of finery. I have seen a negro lady with a ten-guinea satin gown upon her, and gold and silver watches are quite common.

2259. They must work in order to obtain those things?—Of course they do; but they can get as much money in a week as a labouring man in this country can do in a month, if they choose to apply themselves.

2260. *Chairman.*] You say that the negroes are in the habit of squatting upon abandoned estates; when the cultivation of an estate is abandoned, is it considered that the property in it has ceased?—No, it is not.

2261. Do the proprietors make no effort to check this habit of squatting upon estates so abandoned?—They do, as much as possible.

2262. Are there sufficient laws to check the squatting upon abandoned estates?—Yes; there are sufficient laws, and the officers ought to put them in force.

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2263. Have they been put in force?—Yes, sometimes.

2264. Then the squatting upon abandoned estates has not been carried to any great extent?—It has not.

2265. If it were, the law would be put in force to check it?—It would.

2266. Has there been any extensive squatting upon unreclaimed lands?—Yes; they have made many attempts to squat upon the islands in the different rivers.

2267. Are there also laws that would have the effect of checking that?—There are, and they attempt to put them in force; but in such a boundless extent of country, and with such few officers entrusted with the execution of the law, it is very difficult.

2268. But still an attempt is made on the part of the Crown to check settling upon unreclaimed lands?—Yes.

2269. Practically speaking, has that practice been carried to any great extent?—I think not.

2270. Do you think the laws are sufficient to prevent its being carried to any great extent?—Yes.

2271. Do you think there is any great danger that extensive immigration, if it were carried on, should take that turn, and that so, the supply of labour should be diverted from its proper channel?—I think not; if a disposition to squat manifested itself in any great degree, the officers would be increased to prevent it.

2272. You have stated that there are no laws in the colony that can be enforced with regard to contracts for labour; do you mean to state that there are no written ordinances for the regulation of contracts for hiring?—There are certainly written ordinances; but it appeared to me that the stipendiary magistrate considered himself as a judge of equity more than anything else, and that he did not adhere to any particular law in his decisions.

2273. Do you mean to say that the magistrates, in making their decisions with regard to contracts, are not regulated in their practice by written laws?—I do not think they are.

2274. But there are certain written laws?—There are.

2275. And of course the magistrates know them?—Yes; but they do not apply to every particular case; the magistrates have a great deal left in their power.

2276. Mr. *Howard.*] You state that the stipendiary magistrates act very much upon the instructions they receive from head-quarters?—I cannot positively assert that they receive secret instructions from head-quarters, but it was generally believed that the Governor sent them particular instructions how to act in particular cases.

2277. Are there local magistrates besides the stipendiary magistrates?—No; I mean none who can interfere between labourers and employers.

2278. *Chairman.*] Are you now speaking from surmise, or are you able to state distinctly to the Committee that instructions have been sent from the Governor to the stipendiary magistrates to regulate their decisions as between the labourers and employers?—I am speaking only from surmise, from the general opinion entertained throughout the colony.

2279. Mr. *Howard.*] Are you sure that there are no printed laws with regard to wages?—With regard to wages there are none.

2280. With regard to contracts for labour?—I have already stated that there are laws to regulate such matters, but these are not understood.

2281. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Do not cases often occur between the planters and the labourers which require summary jurisdiction?—Yes.

2282. And where it would be impossible to send for information how the magistrate was to be guided?—Yes, they frequently occur, and the magistrate generally acts upon the moment.

2283. *Chairman.*] Does the magistrate sit in a particular office?—He has an office.

2284. Does he sit upon particular days?—He gives notice of the day when he will be at any particular place.

2285. Is he assisted by a clerk?—Not in general.

2286. Is he not furnished at his office with all the documents requisite for the discharge of his duties?—Yes; all the documents he possesses are kept there.

2287. Mr. *Godson.*] Being a Crown colony, the ordinances of course go from this country, and when they arrive in the colony they are to be executed by the stipendiary magistrates, and the Governor takes upon himself to modify those ordinances in such a way as he thinks advisable; is that the surmise which you speak of?—

of?—The surmise is, that the Governor exercises an influence over those magistrates.

2288. *Chairman.*] That is mere opinion, and is not known as a fact?—That is the general opinion.

2289. How many stipendiary magistrates are there?—I think seven or eight.

2290. How often do they sit?—They sit daily.

2291. Do they make circuits, or has each magistrate a particular district?—Each magistrate has a particular district, but he must attend in particular parts of the district; he makes a circuit in his own district.

2292. Has he an office in each place where he sits?—He has an office at his own residence.

2293. Where would he sit at the various places?—There are Court-houses which he may make use of.

2294. Can you tell what is the greatest distance which any labourer would have to go to make a complaint?—I cannot tell; but seven or eight miles at the outside.

2295. Mr. *Godson.*] Is not the colony governed by what is called a Court of Policy?—It is.

2296. Which consists of certain persons appointed by the Crown, and certain persons elected by the inhabitants of Demerara?—It does.

2297. And the number appointed by the Crown is larger than the number appointed by the inhabitants. When you say that the Governor does so and so, do you mean that he always has a majority in the court?—No; I mean the Governor, in his individual capacity, has those magistrates under his charge. I do not think they are responsible to that court in any way; I do not think the court takes any charge of the stipendiary magistrates; they are appointed by the Crown.

2298. You stated that the coffee estates were very few in proportion to the sugar estates; does that arise from the want of labour or from the uncertainty of the coffee crop?—It arises from the want of labour.

2299. Does it also arise from the great uncertainty of the coffee plant?—It may arise in part from that, but the principal reason is want of labour.

2300. With respect to the expenses upon an estate in Demerara, as you have a great number of small canals running between the plantations, is there any expense in making roads?—Not compared with other countries. There are leading roads, but that is all.

2301. But all the produce is carried upon those small canals?—Entirely so; there is not an estate in Demerara that has got a road through any part of its cultivation, except leading roads.

2302. They were originally Dutch settlements, and they made canals upon the sea-shore?—Yes.

2303. Is not a portion of the Dutch law also in force?—I believe the law is a mixture of Dutch, English, and Scotch; all kinds of law mixed up.

2304. Is not the keeping up of those drains or small canals one of the items of the colonial expenses?—Yes; but we have not been able to do anything to them for some years back.

2305. Is not that an expensive work?—Yes; but the drainage and the navigation are distinct. The cleaning of them is the most laborious work upon an estate.

2306. Where does the water come from to supply those canals?—On the main land it sometimes comes from the lagoons in the interior, and sometimes from the rivers, if the water be fresh.

2307. In consequence of having a supply of water, are you as much affected by the seasons as in the other West India colonies?—I never saw irrigation practised, and I do not think it would be very easy to irrigate.

2308. In consequence of those drains, and having so much moisture near, are you as much affected by dry seasons as in the other West India colonies?—Not to the same extent; and I think we are more affected by wet weather than by dry.

2309. *Chairman.*] Are you subject in Demerara to long droughts?—Yes, frequently.

2310. Does the system you have described of drainage and canals apply to all the cultivated estates in Demerara?—Yes.

2311. Are there no districts that could be brought into cultivation advantageously so elevated as not to require that system of drainage?—I do not think there

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there are any that could at present be brought into sugar cultivation that are not flat, and require draining; there is no hilly land till you go 70 or 80 miles up the river.

2312. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Has there been any attempt on the part of the planters to combine among themselves to regulate the rate of wages?—They did combine lately for that purpose, but they failed.

2313. You stated that the deterioration of the estates was principally owing to the diminution of labour; and you stated that one effectual remedy for that would be immigration?—Yes.

2314. And you stated that the amount of immigration you have had yet has produced no material alteration?—No, it has not.

2315. Do you think that as long as the labourers are not fixed to estates that any additional amount of labour you can reasonably expect would make any alteration in the cost of production?—I think it would require very extensive immigration indeed to reduce wages, and therefore to diminish the cost of production.

2316. Do you think any extent of immigration you could expect would have that effect, as long as the present state of things exists, for instance, with regard to contracts?—There is no doubt that the good effects of immigration would be very much destroyed by the want of combination among the planters, and by the want of proper contract laws, by which they could engage labourers as in this country.

2317. Is there any amount of capital in the colony which might be applied to the cultivation of fresh land, if there were the means of obtaining labour?—The amount of capital in the colony is diminished; but there is plenty of capital in this country that might be applied.

2318. Supposing one or two planters to be possessed of large capital, and to wish to invest their capital in the cultivation of fresh lands, might not the effect of that be, that the additional labour brought into the colony might be diverted from the present lands, and employed upon fresh land brought into cultivation?—The first thing people would do would be to cultivate the lands already brought in.

2319. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Is it supposed safe to invest capital in any lands in Demerara?—No, it is not; no merchant, at the present moment, would give a farthing to a Demerara planter to keep him afloat.

2320. Do you wish to give any explanation of any former part of your evidence?—I ought to have stated that, in estimating the price at which sugar has been produced of late years, I have left out all extra expenses for cottages; I have only taken the expenditure for wages and usual supplies. In some instances there are 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* left out, which would have greatly increased the expense of production.

Henry Barkly, Esq. called in; and Examined.

Henry Barkly, Esq.

2321. ARE you acquainted with the colony of British Guiana?—I am; from being extensively connected with it as a merchant and a mortgagee, and likewise as being part proprietor of two sugar estates and two coffee plantations, in the county of Berbice.

2322. What has been the length of your residence in that colony?—I went out to Berbice about three months after the termination of the apprenticeship, and I remained out there about six months; but I remained longer in the West Indies.

2323. Did you ever have the management of any estates?—I did not interfere with the actual details of the management, not being qualified by experience to do so; but, as far as regards all the relations of the labourers with their employers, which were then very complicated, I did interfere to produce a good understanding, as far as possible.

2324. Can you state the extent of the colony of British Guiana?—I believe nobody can state the extent with any certainty. The extent generally stated is about 100,000 square miles; but Schomburgk states about 76,000 square miles, as being the extent which Great Britain can claim; according to what the Brazilians claim, I believe it does not amount to above 12,000 square miles.

2325. What is the extent of it in cultivation?—I should think there are 3 or 400,000 acres in a state fit for cultivation. No land is fit for cultivation till a great expenditure has taken place in embankment and drainage. I should think that not above 50,000 acres, that is not above a thousandth part of the whole colony, is in actual cultivation at the present moment.

2326. Whereabouts

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2326. Whereabouts in the colony is that land actually situated?—It is upon the sea-coast principally, and for 10 or 12 miles up the banks of the principal rivers.

2327. How long is it since you were in the colony?—I left it about the middle of 1839, but I have been in constant communication since with planters and merchants.

2328. How long did you reside there?—About six months.

2329. Where did you reside?—I visited almost every estate in the colony. It was the first time I had ever been in the West Indies, and my object was to acquire information; but I visited principally six or seven of the estates in Berbice.

2330. Did you principally reside in any one place?—No, I did not.

2331. When did you leave the colony?—I left the colony about April 1839.

2332. Did you direct your attention at all to the state of the relations between the employers and the labourers?—Yes; that was the great object for which I went out.

2333. Did you ascertain whether there were any laws or ordinances in force for the regulation of the contracts of hiring between employer and labourer?—Yes; certain ordinances were passed by the Governor and the Court of Policy shortly before the emancipation, and some of them shortly after, but they were all disallowed in this country, and orders of her Majesty in council were sent out to supersede them, and those orders are still in force; orders dated in September 1838, applicable to all the Crown colonies, as well as to British Guiana.

2334. When appeals are made to the authority of the stipendiary justices, do they act upon those orders in council?—Yes; those are their general authority; they are modified in many cases by private instructions from the Governor and from the law officers of the Crown, as to the interpretation in a particular colony.

2335. In cases of disputes between the labourers and employers, were they settled upon the basis of those orders in council?—They are not all provided for in the orders in council; those orders in council only apply to the suppression of vagrancy and the regulation of contracts for hiring.

2336. What is the extent of the estates in which you are interested?—It would be very difficult to say precisely at the moment. One of the estates I am proprietor of consists of nearly 2,000 acres, the grant of land; and one of about 600 acres; but a very small portion of that is in cultivation at present. Speaking of the two sugar estates I am interested in, I should say the one amounts to about 2,000 acres, and the other 600.

2337. What proportion of that is in sugar canes?—Upon the estate on which there are 2,000 acres, I think, at the last accounts from the colony, there were 180 in canes, and on the other estate in proportion. I cannot state the exact quantity.

2338. Had you ever been in the colony before this visit?—No; but I was aware what the cultivation was during slavery.

2339. Can you state whether the extent of land under cultivation has diminished since the emancipation?—Very much indeed.

2340. Can you state in what ratio?—I should think it was about one-third, taking the colony generally, and about the same upon those estates.

2341. Do you mean that upon those estates there is one-third less land in cultivation now than during slavery?—No; I mean two-thirds less.

2342. Can you state what was the number of negroes upon those two estates of yours during slavery?—I am not prepared with any details upon those points, but I believe there were about 400.

2343. Can you state the number of negroes at work upon those estates when you were there in 1839?—I can do that by reference to documents; but that was not the point upon which I particularly prepared myself.

2344. Can you state what is the practice upon your own estate with regard to the occupation of houses and lands by the labourers?—I believe the practice is universal throughout the colony, that houses and lands are occupied rent free, upon a kind of tacit understanding that some portion of labour is to be given to the estate.

2345. Are you speaking now from report as to the colony generally, or from your own knowledge as to your own particular estates?—My object in going to the colony was to ascertain the state of the colony as well as of my own particular estates, which, as to Berbice, comprise a considerable portion of it.

2346. Are you aware whether, in any instance, an attempt has been made to establish a system of payment of rent among the labourers?—I do not think any

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attempt has been made to establish a system of rent independently of labour; but an attempt has been frequently made to charge the negroes rent for the days upon which they do not work upon the estate; and the last accounts I have from the colony are, that that attempt has been made upon one of my own estates, with the sanction, indeed at the suggestion, of the stipendiary magistrate. I believe, at first, the stipendiary magistrates opposed that system, but I suppose now they consider it necessary.

2347. Then latterly, instead of resorting to ejectment in the event of the labourer not working for the proprietor upon whose land he lives, the system has been tried of exacting a rent, which would be, in fact, virtually a fine for not working?—The system of ejectment has never taken place to any extent, because, I think the proprietor has considered it was better to keep the labourer in the house, in the hope of getting him to work some day or other.

2348. In saying that, do you speak generally, or with reference to your own estates?—Both; I think the practice throughout Guiana is very uniform.

2349. The practice of ejectment has not been resorted to within your knowledge?—I do not think it has to any great extent. It has occasionally been tried, where the negro has abstained from working for a long period.

2350. But of late a system of rent has been established as a sort of fine, in case of not working?—I do not think it is established; it is being tried upon that particular estate. The system of paying half a guilder a day, for the days on which the negro does not work, is being tried with the concurrence of the magistrate; but that was resorted to because the negroes upon the estate had been particularly idle and troublesome.

2351. Of what estate are you speaking?—An estate called Highbury.

2352. Is that the smaller or the larger estate?—The larger one.

2353. What is the sterling value of half a guilder?—It is the sixth part of a dollar; that is about 8½ *d.*

2354. Is that 8½ *d.* considered to be a day's rent for the house and land, or for either of them separately?—It was not considered to refer to the house; it is a bad system; it has only been resorted to from the necessity of the case.

2355. Is it a legal system?—Having been suggested by a stipendiary magistrate, I should think there can be no objection to it in a legal point of view.

2356. Do you know whether any understanding or agreement has been come to by the negro, to the effect that he is to pay half a guilder rent for his house on the days on which he does not work?—I should think that would be the case.

2357. Do you know whether there is any law or ordinance to justify the imposition of such a fine?—I do not think there is, except that the negro, in not working, is supposed to commit a breach of the contract which is understood to exist between him and the owner of the house.

2358. Do you know what contract exists upon that estate between the proprietor and the negro?—No actual contract exists; but I believe the stipendiary magistrate and the Governor have always considered that a contract virtually exists; that he is to do some labour upon the estate, the house being part of his wages; and therefore, if he does not do any labour, the system is to make him refund that portion of his wages under the name of rent. I think that system is a bad one, and that the system of a regular rent is much better; but as yet we have had no system of rent. I believe, at present, there is an ordinance proposed in the Court of Policy for that purpose, which has passed the second reading, but it is not expected that it will pass.

2359. Do you know what the exact effect of that ordinance is?—No; I believe it is very similar to the law of this country with regard to the ejectment of tenants.

2360. Do you know what has been the effect upon that estate, of this new system of exacting rent upon days they do not work?—No, I do not.

2361. You do not know whether it has succeeded?—I do not.

2362. Do you know to what extent it has been practised?—I believe not to any extent; it was tried, in the first instance, after the emancipation, by several proprietors, but it was discountenanced by the authorities, and immediately given up; and after that time no attempt was made to charge rent of any kind. Recently a gentleman went out from this country, to that estate for me; he found that 97 negroes, effective labourers, who occupied houses upon that estate, had done no work for many months past; he then consulted with the stipendiary magistrate, and it was suggested by him that that would be the proper way of meeting the case.

2363. How long is it since that attempt was commenced in that instance?—It was

was commenced about January in this year, and I have not heard what the effect has been.

2364. Do you know whether this rent or fine was imposed for every day when the labourer might be absent from work, or was it considered that after any given amount of absence, he had rendered himself liable to such payment?—I should think the nature of the arrangement would be this, that the stipendiary magistrate went round the estate with the manager, and stated to the negroes that in consequence of their idleness it had been resolved, with his concurrence, to charge them with half a guilder a day for every day they did not work upon that estate; and I do not suppose they would object to that; they would not mind paying that sum of money.

2365. Do you know whether the same experiment has been tried upon any other estates?—I believe it has not.

2366. Do you know what number of negroes there were resident upon that estate at the time when those 70 did no work for months together?—I suppose there were 258.

2367. Do you know whether those negroes were living altogether in a state of idleness, or had they betaken themselves to other estates for work?—I should think they had not betaken themselves to other estates, because they would have had just as good reason for working on my estate as upon any other; and there is no sugar estate immediately adjoining it, and, therefore, I conclude that they were either working upon their own grounds, or absent in the towns and wandering about.

2368. You have no personal knowledge of anything that has passed in British Guiana since the year 1839?—None personally.

2369. Did you hear any complaints while you were there in 1839, with regard to the difficulty of procuring continuous labour?—Very great complaints since the emancipation.

2370. Can you state any details as to the comparative produce of the estate during the periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom?—No, I have not brought any of those statements; I believe it is intended by the merchants of London to offer considerable evidence upon that point in a general form; such statements are prepared, but I have not got them here.

2371. Can you state generally whether with regard to your own estate the produce has diminished to any great degree since the commencement of freedom?—It has diminished to an enormous extent, I should think, in the same ratio as the production of the colony generally has decreased. The average production of British Guiana, I believe, for six years before the introduction of the free system, was about 63,000 hogsheads of sugar; and I believe the average of the last three years has been about 37,000. The last year the crop was about 34,000; and I think that that is pretty nearly the rate of decrease with regard to my own estate.

2372. Is that enormous diminution to be attributed exclusively to the difference in the supply of labour?—Exclusively. I should think, as regards the seasons on the average of the four years, they have been as favourable as they have ever been in British Guiana; there was a little dry weather in 1839 at one time, but not more than sufficient to enter into a fair average.

2373. Are you aware whether any change in the habits of the negroes, as to their readiness to work, has taken place since you were there in 1839?—I think there has been greater cessation from work; they have acquired more money; many of them have bought lots of land which was a system only just beginning when I was there.

2374. Things have not improved since you were there?—Very much the reverse.

2375. Did they work by task when you were there?—Yes.

2376. Was the task labour the same in amount and quantity as it is now?—I believe generally the same.

2377. What was the rate of wages given in 1839 for a task?—A guilder, which is about 1 *s.* 5 *d.* sterling, was the lowest rate.

2378. Is that the sum that is now paid for it?—It is; it has risen in the interim, but owing to the fall in the price of sugar, and the efforts the planters have made, it is now about the same that it was then.

2379. What has been the highest given in the interim?—I believe half a dollar a task was commonly given throughout the colony; I believe in many cases larger sums have been given.

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2380. Did you give any allowance to your labourers in 1839 besides the money payments?—Yes allowances of fish and rum and sugar.

2381. What was the daily value of those allowances?—I cannot state that.

2382. Can you tell whereabouts it was?—No, I cannot.

2383. Have those allowances since been discontinued?—I believe since the commencement of the present year they have been discontinued in Berbice; in consequence of the efforts made by the planters of Demerara to obtain a reduction in the rate of wages, the proprietors in Berbice were enabled at the time to reduce the allowances without reducing the rate of wages.

2384. Of those labourers who are now upon your estate, are there many who were there in the time of slavery?—I believe almost all.

2385. Have you resorted upon your estates at any period since freedom commenced to the employment of immigrants?—On all my estates immigrants have been employed for a longer or shorter period.

2386. What do you mean by all your estates?—All the estates I am connected with; I am connected with estates as mortgagee which are not my own property.

2387. You are more particularly conversant with the two estates which are your own property?—I am.

2388. Upon those two estates have you resorted to the employment of immigrants at any period since the commencement of freedom?—Upon those estates a great number of Coolies were placed before the commencement of freedom, and they have remained there ever since, and captured Africans have been placed there.

2389. The Coolies were placed there during the apprenticeship?—They were placed there two months before the termination of the apprenticeship.

2390. What number of Coolies?—In the first instance 166 Coolies upon the two estates.

2391. How many are there now?—I think about 142 at the present moment.

2392. Have the others died?—They have.

2393. What number of African immigrants are there employed upon those two estates?—I believe only 20 upon Highbury estate, none upon the other.

2394. When did they proceed there?—About November, last year.

2395. The body of Coolies to which you have adverted were working upon the estate when you were there in 1839?—Yes.

2396. Do you find that the introduction of that body of immigrants, has compensated in the cultivation of the estates for the deficiencies caused by the idle habits of the negroes?—No; it has not been carried to a sufficient extent.

2397. Has it compensated to any considerable extent?—It has compensated as far as their labour went; but the number of negroes working upon the estate is so much reduced, that it has not made up the deficiency.

2398. To which estate does your answer refer?—To the Highbury estate.

2399. What is the number of negroes upon the Highbury estate?—It was about 400 at the termination of the apprenticeship.

2400. Can you state how many negroes are now at work upon the Highbury estate?—On the average of the last year, the number of tasks performed, if divided by the number of days on which the people could labour, six days in the week, would give an average of 95 labourers constantly employed.

2401. How many of the 166 Coolies were at work upon the Highbury estate?—Ninety-two men were at work last year upon the Highbury estate; the number has varied according to the mortality since they were first placed there.

2402. Then you have now the effective work of little more than 200 men instead of 400?—Yes.

2403. Do you know how many hours in the day your negroes worked in the time of slavery?—They worked 10 hours up to 1831, when the protectors of slaves were established; after that, the number of hours of working were diminished to nine.

2404. Both those numbers are computed after deducting the time allowed for food and rest?—Yes; but even at that time they worked by task, and the task was only calculated to be such as they could perform in that time; it was, in fact, much less.

2405. Do you know how many hours a day they are in the habit of working now?—Very few of them perform more than one task, and on the average of the week they do not perform a task every day.

2406. How many hours will a task take them, if well done?—If well done, I suppose

suppose it would take them about five hours; I think it seldom occupies them more than four.

2407. When you were in the colony in 1839, did you direct much of your attention to the labour of the Coolies?—Yes, I did particularly.

2408. How did you find that they worked?—On their first arrival they were not able to perform the same quantity of work as the negroes; I think they did a nominal day's work from the very first, but they could not perform it nearly so rapidly as the negroes.

2409. Was that in consequence of any effect which the climate produced upon them?—No; I think it was in consequence of their not being accustomed to that kind of work.

2410. Have you found that they become inured to the work, and able to do as much work as the negroes?—I do not think they are physically so powerful a race as the negroes.

2411. Are they more willing to work?—Much more; they come under indentures to perform work.

2412. What was the nature of the indentures?—They were to engage to work for a term of five years, and they were to have a passage to Calcutta found them at the end of that time. They were to be supplied with certain specified articles of food and clothing, and medical attendance, and to receive 2 ½ dollars a month, as money payment. Those advantages we reckoned to be equal at that time to about 6 ½ dollars a month, including the food, clothing, and money payment; but from alterations afterwards made in the description of clothing supplied for them, as they wished to be dressed like the negroes, instead of having their oriental costume, it was increased to seven dollars a month. Of course we have to add to that a proportion of the expense of their passage from Calcutta and back in our calculations as to what we paid them, which would amount to a dollar a month more; so that the advantages they have enjoyed were equal to about eight dollars a month.

2413. You have not mentioned lodging; were they provided with lodging?—They were lodged, and they had ground given them rent free, on the same terms as the negroes.

2414. Were they lodged in houses equally good with those of the negroes?—I think they were better; the houses were built on purpose before they came.

2415. Was there a stated quantity of ground given to each of them?—There was enclosed garden ground behind the houses; they might have as much ground as they liked.

2416. Was that garden common to all of them?—I put up a paling round it, and they were advised to divide it among themselves; but I do not think they did so while I was there.

2417. Did they in any instance apply for land elsewhere?—No; I believe they had some idea of purchasing land, but they have not applied for a portion of the estate land.

2418. Did you find that they cultivated the land they had?—I think not more than was necessary to supply themselves with provisions.

2419. Not with the view of taking any to market?—I do not think that is their particular turn; they raised a quantity of stock.

2420. Those Coolies did not work by task?—Not at first; afterwards they were paid for whatever they performed after the task; they are now upon the same footing as the negroes.

2421. In consideration of that payment per month, how much work did you exact from them every day?—I believe they were expected to perform the regular task assigned to the negroes under the apprenticeship.

2422. Were they considered to be at their own disposal after the performance of one task in a day?—They were.

2423. You say that they are now paid by task like the negroes; when was the system of payment changed?—Almost immediately.

2424. Was it changed with their own consent?—Yes, at their own request.

2425. What means had you in case of idleness of compelling the work of those Coolies?—They were under indentures to work, and by complaint made to the stipendiary magistrate, those indentures would have been enforced.

2426. Had you occasion sometimes to resort to the stipendiary magistrate?—Very seldom: more in cases of drunkenness than in cases of idleness.

2427. Were they much addicted to drinking?—Some few of them.

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2428. Have you found them more industrious than the negroes have been in a state of freedom?—Yes; they are more industrious at the present time than the negroes are at the present time.

2429. Do you consider that the introduction of those Coolies has been advantageous to the estate?—I believe the cultivation of the estate could not have been kept up without them, and that is the opinion of all the managers.

2430. How do you find that the liberated Africans from Sierra Leone do?—The climate suits them very well; there has been no illness among them; they have begun to do the same quantity of work as other labourers.

2431. Are they bound to you by any particular indentures, or are they at liberty to leave you whenever they please?—They are at liberty to leave whenever they please.

2432. Have you had any immigrants upon your estates besides the Africans from Sierra Leone, and the Coolies?—None.

2433. You have had none from Madeira or from Malta?—None.

2434. Notwithstanding this amount of immigration, you say that the produce of the estate has very much fallen off?—Very much indeed; the produce of the estate, on the average of the 20 years before the emancipation, was nearly 500 hogsheads of sugar, and the crop last year was about 170.

2435. Do you consider that there is general distress existing amongst the proprietors and planters in British Guiana?—There is no doubt the greatest distress exists.

2436. What is the principal cause of the distress?—The inadequate supply of labour. The large quantity of capital invested in proportion to the small quantity of labour that can be extracted from the people.

2437. Is it your opinion that, in addition to the necessity of an increased number of labourers, laws are required for the regulation of the relations between the labourers and the employers?—I think a law for the speedy recovery of lands and tenements would be very useful indeed. I think also that a law authorising contracts to be made for short periods, not in writing, would be very useful. They are allowed at present; but if they are for longer than 28 days, they must be put in writing before the stipendiary magistrate, and the negroes have a great objection to committing themselves to any written paper which they do not understand, therefore no contracts in reality do exist. If you could make a contract with the negro to take off the crop, it would be very useful.

2438. What number of additional immigrants should you say were essential to you upon the Highbury Estate, to enable you to carry on the proper cultivation of that property?—I should say at least 200 immigrants would be required to put me in the same position that I was in before the 1st of August 1838.

2439. Have you taken any measures upon your estate for increasing the means of religious instruction of the negroes?—There was not much necessity to take measures. There was a school managed by a missionary of the London Missionary Society for many years, and service is occasionally performed in it on Sunday. There is a church also within reach, and many schools in the neighbourhood.

2440. How is the school you speak of supported; is it supported at your own charge?—No; there is a certain subscription given by the estate towards it. I believe it is supported partly by the contributions of the negroes, and partly by funds from this country.

2441. Do any negro children come to that school besides those living upon your property?—I believe the negroes upon the next adjoining estate attend it also.

2442. Is there any stated contribution that the negroes are obliged to make, to secure the benefit of that school for their children?—I do not think they make any payment at all to the school.

2443. Do you know any instances where negroes have contributed considerably, for the purpose of either church building or school building?—I believe they have to a considerable extent, by way of subscription, but not by way of daily regular or weekly payments.

2444. Do you think they are willing to make payments for the purpose?—I think they would be, if it was explained to them. I think they at present consider that they have rather a right to those advantages; but if it was explained to them that the colony could not afford it any longer, they would do so.

2445. Mr.

2445. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] Are they anxious that their children should be educated?—Yes; I think there is a great anxiety upon the subject.

2446. They send them to school?—They do. It varies, of course, according to the character of the parents; but I think, in general, the desire is very great.

2447. Mr. *Howard.*] The colony does not contribute to the Wesleyan Missionary Society?—I do not think it does. They may have made an occasional grant to assist them in the erection of a school house; but I do not think they contribute annually.

2448. *Chairman.*] Do you find that the women and children work willingly upon the estate?—The women do a certain portion of labour, not so large as they used to perform; the children under 14 or 15 years of age do very little labour.

2449. Have you formed any opinion as to the extent to which immigration ought to take place, so as to secure continuous labour, and to produce a sensible impression upon the rate of wages?—I do not think the object which we so much wish to gain in British Guiana is to reduce the rate of wages. What we mainly want is to obtain a sufficient quantity of labour to put the colony on the same footing of average production as it was before emancipation; and I think that the introduction of 8,000 or 10,000 immigrants, in the course of 12 months, would have a very great effect; I think that would not be the full extent of labour that has been withdrawn from the cultivation of sugar. In the last letter of Governor Light, in the last Blue Book that has been published, he states that he cannot reckon the number of effective labourers at more than 25,000 throughout the colony. Now the number of prædial apprentices who were set free was about 63,000; and, therefore, the deficiency of labour would be nearly to the extent of 38,000. But a great part of those who have withdrawn would come back, I believe, if the plan of immigration were had recourse to.

2450. You mean by force of competition?—Yes; in consequence of immigration.

2451. Mr. *Howard.*] Among those mentioned by Governor Light, do you know at what age the negroes are included?—I do not know any further than that he says that he considers there are 25,000 effective labourers in the colony. The negroes above six years of age, on the 1st of August 1834, were 63,000 prædial apprentices, and there were about 10,000 under the age of six years. Many of those would now be 14 years of age, and might do some labour.

2452. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] What has become of that population, are they still residing in the country?—Yes; I do not wish to give the idea that there are only 25,000 people performing work in British Guiana, but only that, instead of 63,000, which formed the labouring class at the period of the emancipation, the labour now yielded is only equal to that of 25,000 men, if they worked constantly. I think there are very few negroes who have totally withdrawn from work; but they have purchased small lots of land, and do two or three days' work in a week on their master's estate.

2453. Is there great facility for the negroes getting small lots of land in that district?—The greatest; the price of land varies from 1*l.* to 60*l.* an acre, and at the rate of wages paid them, a very few days' labour will enable them to purchase an acre of land.

2454. Have they purchased from individual proprietors, or from the Government?—Not at all from the Government.

2455. Is there any restriction by the Government as to not selling less than a certain tract?—I believe that not less than 100 acres can be put up, and then they must be put up at 1*l.* an acre, but the fees are very heavy.

2456. Then they resort to individual proprietors?—They buy from individual proprietors.

2457. Do not you apprehend that if there should be a considerable immigration in a short time, those immigrants will have recourse to some such system, and become settlers upon the land, instead of working as labourers upon the estates?—No; there is only a certain quantity of land that is ever likely to be forced upon the market; that is, land that has been brought into such a state, that it can be cultivated, of which there may be 300,000 or 400,000 acres in the colony. I do not think any other land would be fit for the negroes to cultivate without the expenditure of a large capital, which they are never likely to lay out upon it; you must drain the whole of the tract of land that is intended to be resided upon, and form embankments there.

2458. That is for the sugar cultivation?—No; that is to render it fit for the habitati o

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habitation of man; it is impossible to exist upon it without that: the Indians do; but it is swampy and marshy, and subject to inundations; it is below the level of the sea at high water.

2459. Do you think there is sufficient restriction upon that subject to prevent your losing the good effect of immigration at present, or that some other ordinances should be adopted with regard to the sale of land?—I do not think any other ordinances can be adopted; individual proprietors must be left to sell their land to the negroes, if they please. Their object is generally to secure their labour. No land has been bought at a distance from estates; it has generally been a portion of an estate that has been sold, or else an abandoned estate which lies between other estates.

2460. Mr. *Howard.*] Have you heard many complaints with regard to the administration of justice?—No, I think it is not generally complained of. I think there is a slight bias in the minds of the magistrates towards the negro, from the circumstance of their appointment; they were appointed as his guardian and friend during the time when he was not in a state of freedom, and I think they retained that feeling for a little time after the 1st of August 1838; but that is fast wearing off.

2461. How is the stipendiary magistracy paid?—By the civil list of the colony, which has been voted for seven years.

2462. *Chairman.*] Have you any reason to think that that bias has been carried to such an extent as to amount to injustice to the planters?—I think not; I think the bias is only in passing the sentence. I think the decision upon the facts by the stipendiary magistrate is generally correct and fair, but in passing sentence, if the labourer is in fault he is generally inclined to be a little easy with him, and if the master is in fault he is inclined to carry out the law strictly.

2463. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] The one being an educated man, and the other uneducated, do you think that a very unfair proceeding?—In the circumstances of the colony it is not a very fair proceeding, because the masters in the colony are entirely dependent upon the labourers; therefore the hardship is greater upon the master than it would be upon the labourer.

2464. Mr. *Howard.*] Are there many complaints on the part of the negroes against the planters for not paying them their wages at the proper time?—In proportion to the population there are very few complaints, and in general they are against people of their own colour; small jobbers, who have gangs of negroes working for them, much more than against proprietors of estates.

2565. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] Is it not the fact that in British Guiana bodies of negroes have united together and purchased considerable properties?—That is the fact. The object of the combination was owing to what I have mentioned as to the circumstances of the country. If you buy an estate you must keep up the drainage of it; the whole of the estate would very soon be under water if the drainage were not properly managed, and therefore when any one negro wanted a portion of an estate, it would be expedient for him to join with a great many others and purchase an estate.

2466. Mr. *Howard.*] It requires a great deal of capital to keep up the cultivation of an estate?—It does.

2467. Do you think there is any deficiency of capital at present in Guiana?—There is great deficiency of capital in all the British colonies, but there is great plenty of capital in this country, which, if it were the interest of its possessors to send it there, would go there very rapidly.

2468. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You say you are acquainted with the province of Berbice; have you seen a return sent home by the governor of British Guiana about the net profits of six sugar estates, during the year 1840, on the authority of Captain J. A. Allen, stipendiary magistrate of the district M, in Berbice?—I have.

2469. Have you any acquaintance with the estates named in that return?—Yes, I went over the cultivation, and inspected the works of every one of them in the year 1839, and as regards the three last estates named in the return, I can speak with certainty, as I am connected with all of them in my mercantile capacity; I am joint mortgagee of one, and another belongs to my partners, the Messrs. Davidsons.

2470. Can you say whether the statements contained in that return are correct?—I believe them to be incorrect in most cases.

2471. Do you know an estate called Hertstelling?—I know where it is situated.

2472. Do you know one called Welgelegen?—I know where it is situated.

2473. Do you know the Benfield estates?—I know where they are situated.

2474. From their size, situation, and capabilities, do you conceive them to be entitled to the notice of Governor Light when making a report of the state of affairs in that colony to this country?—I should suppose that in making a report of the state of affairs in the colony, if he referred to any particular estates, he ought to refer to all, and that those estates should have been mentioned.

2475. Have you ever seen them mentioned in Governor Light's report?—I cannot say that I have.

2476. Has he mentioned your estates?—Yes, he has frequently mentioned them.

2477. Has he done so in what you consider to be a fair way?—I think his mention has generally been as to particular circumstances connected with them, and I think he has been generally correct. But in the case of the report referred to; the statement he has obtained from the stipendiary magistrate, I should say is not correct.

2478. Have you any statements showing the actual returns upon those estates referred to in Captain Allen's report?—I have drawn up a statement, which shows the state of the case side by side with the figures he has given.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

RETURN given by Captain *Allen* of the Amount of Produce, Expenditure, and Net Profits of certain Estates in *Berbice*, for the Year 1840, compared with the actual results, as abstracted from the Proprietors' Accounts.

——	Number of Hogsheads of Sugar, as given by Mr. T. A. Allen.	Actual Number of Hogsheads received.	Total value of Produce as shown in Mr. Allen's statement.	Total value of Produce, per actual sales.	Amount of wages on Mr. Allen's authority.	Amount of wages paid, as per journals sent to proprietor.
			£.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Canefield - - -	588	506	24,780	16,179 11 9	3,333 6 8	3,914 17 10
Goldstone Hall - -	228	218	9,680	6,980 - -	2,500 - -	2,725 - -
Reliance - - -	300	298	13,290	7,650 - -	3,137 10 -	3,050 - -
Rose Hall - - -	300	293	12,800	8,645 - -	2,604 3 4	3,384 - -
	1,416	1,315	60,550	39,454 11 9	11,575 - -	13,073 17 10

Management and Incidental Expenses, according to Mr. Allen's statement including interest on capital.	Management and Incidental Expenses, Supplies from home, the latter omitted by Mr. Allen.	Net Profit as stated by Mr. Allen.	Actual Net Profit.	Actual Loss.	——
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£.	£.	£.	
4,456 13 4	5,000 12 9	17,000	7,264 1 2	—	Canefield.
2,180 - -	3,705 - -	5,000	550 - -	—	Goldstone Hall.
2,152 10 -	5,235 - -	8,000	- - -	635	Reliance.
3,195 11 8	6,071 - -	7,000	- - -	810	Rose Hall.
11,984 15 -	20,011 12 9	37,000	7,814 1 2	1,445	
	Deduct actual Loss - - - -		1,445 - -		
	Balance - - - - - -		6,369 1 2		

2479. Does that table include interest on the capital invested?—No, it does not.

2480. Can you state what the inaccuracies are in that report?—I can state them to the Committee pretty fully as regards the three last estates; as regards the first estate, it is impossible to procure information. The first estate is Eliza and Mary, and forms part of a bankrupt's property, and is under the direction of

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the Court of Chancery, and I believe it is difficult to find any one who can give the particulars. The second estate, Prospect, was the property of a practical planter, who resided there, and who sold it during the year referred to, and retired to this country. He states that he has not his papers with him, but that he believes the statement to be quite incorrect as to the returns, as far as he was concerned in them. The third estate is the property of a gentleman who resides there, but who is at present here, the Canefield Estate, and he has furnished me with a return taken from the documents in his possession, which shows Captain Allen's statement to be incorrect in a great degree. Captain Allen states that it left 17,000 *l.* profit, after paying interest on capital, in the year 1840. According to the figures here supplied to me, it only left the sum of 7,264 *l.*, without allowing for interest on capital, which Captain Allen states is provided for in his calculations. I will hand in that statement. The fourth estate, Goldstone Hall, is the property of a noble lord in this country, and I act for it as one of the merchants; and I can therefore supply a statement, on my own knowledge, in contradiction of Captain Allen's report. Captain Allen states, that Goldstone Hall estate left an income to the proprietor for the crop of 1840, of 5,000 *l.* sterling. Now I have an accurate statement of the crop, which was 218 hogsheads; he states it at 228. It was sold at an average price of 24 *l.* 15 *s.* 6 *d.*; he takes the average price at 35 *l.* a hogshead. The actual proceeds were 5,400 *l.*; he states them at 7,980 *l.* The other part of the crop, the rum and molasses, were sold in the colony and in Great Britain for 1,477 *l.* The total value of the crop was about 7,000 *l.*; Mr. Allen estimates it at 9,680 *l.* Then with regard to the expenses of making the crop of 1840; the amount of wages actually paid, according to the monthly journals which are sent home to every merchant, was 2,725 *l.*; he states it pretty correctly at 2,500 *l.* He states the remaining expenses at 2,180 *l.*, including interest on capital; whereas, in point of fact, they amounted to 3,700 *l.* The result of the whole is, that while he states that the proprietor made an income of 5,000 *l.*, the actual income was 550 *l.* The fifth estate, Reliance, is only under mortgage to the firm of which I am a member, and I am only able to speak generally as regards the value of the crop, and the amount of bills paid by us in this country; but the result was, that instead of leaving a revenue of 8,000 *l.* after paying the expenses, it left the mortgagees out of pocket 635 *l.* in that year. That I know to be the general result, having received the crop, and having paid the bills.

2481. But you have not the details?—I have not the details, as I am only the mortgagee of the estate. The sixth estate is the property of my partners, the Messrs. Davidsons; and I can give a particular account in detail of the items. The result is, that instead of leaving an income of 7,000 *l.* sterling profit, there was a loss to the proprietors of 810 *l.* in that year. As regards the result of the four estates, according to Captain Allen's Return, they left an income of 37,000 *l.*, after paying the interest on capital. They actually left only about 6,000 *l.*, making a difference of 31,000 *l.* as regards the four estates in the return. These statements I will deliver in.

[*The same were delivered in, and are as follow:*]

(A.)

PLANTATION CANEFIELD.—Crop and Expenditure for the Year 1840.

In a Return dated *Berbice*, 10 July 1841, and given in to Governor *Light*, by Mr. *T. A. Allen*, Stipendiary Magistrate in the Canje District of *Berbice*, it is set forth that Canefields Estate left an income to the Proprietor for the Crop of 1840 of 17,000 *l.* sterling (*Vide* Parliamentary Papers, *British Guiana*, 1841–42, fol. 78, Return (A.) The following are the facts:—

Crop Produced:

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The crop of sugar made in 1840 was 506 hogsheads, of which 139 hogsheads, sold in London, netted, as per account sales	3,252	8	9			
367 hogsheads sold in Liverpool at 59/ to 67/ account, sales not yet received; the average price will net 22 *l.* per hogshead, or	8,074	–	–			
				11,326	8	9
The rum and molasses sold in the colony for $22,810 exchange, at $470 per 100 *l.* is				4,853	3	–
Carried forward £.				16,179	11	9

			£. s. d.
Brought forward - - -	- - -		16,179 11 9
EXPENSE OF MAKING CROP, 1840:			
Amount of wages paid from 1st January to 31st December 1840 - - - - - - -	$. 16,400	$ £.	
Subscription to Immigration Fund - - -	800		
Gratuities to the people for extra labour, &c. &c.	2,000		
		19,200 = 4,085	
Ordinary expenses actually paid for supplies in the colony and from England, salaries, &c. - - - - - -		22,743 = 4,830	
Exchange, $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling - -	$.	41,943 is - - -	8,915 10 7
		£.	7,264 1 2

(B.)

PLANTATION GOLDSTONE HALL.—CROP and EXPENDITURE for the Year 1840.

IN a Return dated *Berbice*, 10 July 1841, and given in to Governor *Light*, by Mr. *J. A. Allen*, Stipendiary Magistrate in the CANJE District of *Berbice*, it is set forth that Goldstone Hall Estate left an income to the Proprietor for the Crop of 1840, of 5,000 *l.* sterling. (*Vide* Parliamentary Papers, *British Guiana*, 1841-42, folio 78, Return (A). The following are the facts:—

			£. s. d. Sterling.	£.
CROP PRODUCED:				
The crop of sugar made in 1840 was 218 hogsheads, and it sold at an average of 24 *l.* 15 *s.* 6 *d.* per hogshead, and consequently netted - - - - - - - - - - - -	£.		5,401 1 7	
Mr. Allen states the crop at 228 hogsheads, estimates the sales at 35 *l.* per hogshead, and the proceeds consequently at - - - - -	7,980			
The rum and molasses sold in the colony, and in Great Britain, for - - - - - - - - - - -			1,477 17 3	
Sundries sold in the colony - - - - - - - -			100 – –	
				6,980
Mr. Allen estimates the value of the rum and molasses, at - -	1,700			
	£. 9,680			
EXPENSES OF MAKING CROP, 1840:				
The amount of wages actually paid from 1st January 1840 to 31 December 1840, as per monthly journals sent home to the proprietor every month (particulars annexed), was $ 12,813 84 *c*; exchange, $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling - - - - -			2,725 – –	
Mr. Allen represents that the amount of wages, at the rate of 4 *s.* 2 *d.* per dollar, as taken from the estates' books, is - - - -	£. 2,500			
Salaries - - - - - - - - - - - -			817 – –	
Lumber, W. & P. pine, scantling shingles, staves, casks, &c. - - - - - - - - - - -			538 – –	
Sundry small supplies - - - - - - - -			156 – –	
Taxes - - - - - - - - - - - -			289 – –	
Tradesmen, carpenter, blacksmith, coppersmith, engineer - - - - - - - - - - -			177 – –	
Premium on silver to pay labourers - - - - - -			28 – –	
Sundries - - - - - - - - - - -			79 – –	
Subscription to emigration fund - - - - - -			100 – –	
Total expenses in the colony - -			4,909 – –	
Supplies shipped from Great Britain, viz.:				
Coals, bricks, lime, ironmongery, punts, packs, &c. - - -			1,520 – –	
				6,430
Mr. Allen estimates the expenses of making crop (including interest on capital,) at - - - - - - - - - - -	2,180			
	£. 4,680			
Income to proprietor on crop 1840 - - - - - -			- - £.	550

Mr. Allen states that the proprietor made a probable net profit of 5,000 *l.*

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AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID, 1840:

	$ c.		£. s. d.
January	941 67	at $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling	200 – –
February	776 33	—	165 – –
March	742 –	—	158 – –
April	966 08	—	205 – –
May	1,215 83	—	258 – –
June	696 83	—	148 – –
July	898 –	—	191 – –
August	629 91	—	134 – –
September	1,542 57	—	328 – –
October	1,567 83	—	334 – –
November	1,646 20	—	351 – –
December	1,190 38	—	253 – –
	$ 12,813 63	at $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling	£. 2,725 – –

(C.)

PLANTATION RELIANCE.—CROP and EXPENDITURE for the Year 1840.

IN a Return, dated *Berbice*, 10 July 1841, and given in to Governor *Light* by Mr. *J. A. Allen*, stipendiary magistrate in the CANJE District of *Berbice*, it is set forth that Reliance Estate left an income to the Proprietors, for the crop of 1840, of 8,000 *l.* sterling. (*Vide* Parliamentary Papers, *British Guiana*, 1841–42, folio 78, Return (A).

Messrs. Davidsons, Barkly & Co. are only mortgagees of this estate, and are unable therefore to state what the actual expenditure and receipts of the property were; but the following Memorandum will show that Mr. Allen's estimate is entirely erroneous.

EXPENSES	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The bills passed on the mortgagees, for the expenses of the estate, from 1st January to 31st December 1840, amounted to	7,150 – –	
N. B. Of the above sum, it has been ascertained, from the monthly journals sent home, that the wages paid to the negroes amounted to £. 3,050 – –		
Mr. Allen estimates the amount of wages, at the rate of 4*s.* 2*d.* per dollar, at £. 3,137 10 –		
The taxes	315 – –	
Supplies shipped from England; viz. coals, bricks, lime, ironmongery, punts, &c.	7,465 – – 819 – –	
Mr. Allen estimates the expense of making crop, including interest on capital, at 2,152 10 –		8,285 – –
	£. 5,290 – –	
CROP PRODUCED:		
The crop of sugar made in 1840 was 300 hogsheads, of which 298 hogsheads were shipped home, and sold at an average of 25 *l.* 13 *s.* 0 ½ *d.* per hogshead, and consequently netted	7,644 11 1	
Mr. Allen states the crop at 300 hogsheads, estimates the sales at 35 *l.* per hogshead, and the proceeds consequently at 10,500 *l.*		7,650 – –
The rum and molasses produced were sold in the colony; according to Mr. Allen's estimate, they produced 2,790 *l.*		
But Messrs. Davidsons, Barkly & Co. can only discover in the accounts they have received a sum of 1,560 *l.*, which amount was applied to the purposes of the estate in the colony.	£.	635 – –

(D.)

PLANTATION ROSE HALL.—CROP and EXPENDITURE for the Year 1840.

IN a Return, dated *Berbice*, 10 July 1841, and given in to Governor *Light* by Mr. *J. A. Allen*, stipendiary magistrate in the CANJE District of *Berbice*, it is set forth that Rose Hall Estate left an income to the Proprietors, for the crop of 1840, of 7,000 *l.* sterling. (*Vide* Parliamentary Papers. *British Guiana*, 1841–42, folio 78, Return (A).

The following are the facts.

EXPENSES:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Amount of wages actually paid from 1st January to 31st December 1840, as per monthly accounts sent to the proprietors every month, $ 15,908, exchange $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling	3,384 – –	
Mr. Allen represents that the amount of wages (estimating the dollar at 4*s.* 2*d.*, as "taken from the estates book)" is £. 2,604 – –		
Salaries	882 – –	
Lumber, W. and P. pine, shingles, staves, wood-hoops, puncheons, &c.	1,563 – –	

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Tradesmen, carpenters, blacksmith, masons, engineer, &c.	713 – –		
Stock, 10 oxen	124 – –		
Taxes	325 – –		
Supplies in the colony, bricks, lime, machinery, Kokers, &c.	558 – –		
Sundry small stores	236 – –		
Premium on silver	57 – –		
Subscription to parochial school	75 – –		
Ditto towards emigration fund	100 – –		
Expenditure in the Colony	8,017 – –		
Supplies from Great Britain; coals, bricks, ironmongery, punts, &c.	1,415 – –		
Six silver watches, sent out as presents to the most industrious negroes	23 – –		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9,455 – –	
Mr. Allen estimates the expenses of making crop, &c., including interest on capital, at £. 3,195 – –			
	£. 5,799 – –		
CROP PRODUCED:			
The crop of sugar made in 1840 was 293 hogsheads, and it sold at an average of 23 *l.* 11 *s.* 5 *d.* per hogshead, and consequently netted	6,906 17 10		
Mr. Allen states the crop at 300 hogsheads, estimates the sales at 35 *l.* per hogshead, and the proceeds consequently at £. 10,500 – –			
The rum and molasses sold in the colony, and in Great Britain, for	1,563 17 –		
Mr. Allen estimates the value of the rum and molasses at £. 2,300 – –			
	£. 12,800 – –		
Sundries sold in the colony	175 – –		
		8,645 – –	
LOSS TO THE PROPRIETORS		£. 810 – –	

Mr. Allen states that the proprietors made a probable net profit of 7,000 *l.*

N. B. It is proper to state that the items of "Lumber" and "Tradesmen" in this account are unusually heavy, in consequence of a new steam-engine having been erected, (the cost of which, however, is not taken into account,) and considerable repairs to the negroes' houses having been effected.

Amount of WAGES paid, as per Monthly Journals.—1840.

	$. c.		£. s. d.
January	1,339 75	at $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling	285 1 1
February	931 88	—	198 5 6
March	1,156 62	—	246 1 9
April	825 –	—	175 10 8
May	1,563 67	—	332 13 11
June	1,428 67	—	303 19 5
July	1,493 50	—	317 15 4
August	1,087 92	—	231 9 5
September	1,168 –	—	248 10 2
October	1,423 95	—	302 19 4
November	1,759 55	—	374 7 5
December	1,729 50	—	367 19 8
	$. 15,908 01	at $ 470 per 100 *l.* sterling	£. 3,384 13 8

2482. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Were there not other sugar estates included in Capt. Allen's district?—There are several. I believe there are 15 estates altogether. There are seven on the east coast, of which he only alludes to one, and eight estates on the Canje Creek, and he only names five. So that nine estates are omitted in his district.

2483. Can you assign any reason for that omission in this return?—It must have been intentional, for the first estate he has mentioned, the Eliza and Mary, lies between two estates which he has omitted, Skeldon and Mary's Hope, and it is nearly 50 miles from the next estate, Prospect, which he has included in the return. Again, he has omitted Smithson's Place, which lies between Prospect and Canefield, which he has mentioned; and he has omitted Adelphi, which lies between

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tween Reliance and Goldstone Hall, and New Forest, which, again, is situated just beyond the latter. I think, as regards those estates, that if they had been included, they would have made the return bear a very different aspect.

2484. *Chairman.*] Have you any accurate knowledge as regards the estates thus omitted?—I have as to one of them.

2485. What is the result of that?—As to one of those estates, it was very nearly abandoned in the course of that year, from the difficulty of finding wages to pay the labourers; and as to another estate, Smithson's Place, the proprietor went out there in consequence of the state of things, and found that it was necessary for him to remain, in order to bring things round; and there was certainly no income from that estate

2486. Were both those estates cultivated at a loss that year?—I believe they were.

2487. Have you reason to believe that the result has been similar with regard to the other estates?—I believe so.

2488. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] That result appears to have been occasioned in those cases from want of capital, and not from want of labour?—I believe the want of capital is only occasioned by the want of means of procuring labour to make the capital profitable.

Jovis, 26° die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Charles Howard.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Mr. Godson.	Mr. Vernon Smith.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Barkly, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

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2489. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] YOU said that the table which you delivered did not include interest on the capital invested, but you valued it roundly at 100,000*l.*?—Yes; I think on those three estates I stated the capital invested to be about 100,000*l.* sterling, and the annual interest on that sum, at the usual current rate, would have been at least 6,000*l.*

2490. Are you able to inform the Committee what was the probable value of any of those estates within the last few years, say during the period of the apprenticeship?—I think I can give a correct idea upon the subject; I will leave the Committee to form their own judgment from the facts; I will take the three estates in the order in which I mentioned them. Goldstone Hall Estate was purchased in 1830, at a time when West India property was a good deal depreciated by the discussions upon slavery, for 49,500*l.* sterling; and several thousand pounds were subsequently laid out upon it. It was probably worth as much as that at the commencement of the apprenticeship, for the losses did not commence with the apprenticeship; the compensation then paid was a kind of guarantee fund for the final success of the experiment. But it is only fair, in making a statement of this kind, to give credit for the compensation-money received, and which amounted to 17,850*l.* on that estate, leaving the cost of the property, in 1840, 31,650*l.* As regards the next estate, Reliance, it was, in the year 1836, after payment of the compensation money to the various creditors in the colony, conditionally made over to us, as merchants, for a debt of 27,700*l.*, subject to an annuity, on the joint lives of two individuals, valued at about 5,000*l.*, so that the total value of the estate at that time might be fairly taken at 32,000*l.* Rose Hall Estate was valued by its proprietors, in some family arrangements that were contemplated in 1836, to be worth 60,000*l.*; that was after payment of the compensation-money; but, as I before said, I deduct that, amounting to 17,420*l.*, so that it stood to the proprietors in 1840, 42,580*l.* It will be seen that the value of the three estates during slavery might be fairly stated at 155,250*l.* The compensation received was about one-third of that sum—less than one-third—or 48,320*l.*;

48,320*l.*; and therefore I am justified in assuming that their value in 1840 was 106,930*l.*

2491. You say that its proprietors considered Rose Hall worth 60,000*l.* in 1836; what was their ground for believing such was the case?—It was worth that sum, according to the sales of property made at that time in the colony.

2492. Can you quote, from your own knowledge, any sales or offers made at that time?—Yes, I can do so. I will give one instance: a gentlemen of large property in the country wrote to my house of business on the 23d of August 1836, directing us to offer 50,000*l.* for an estate called the Hope and Experiment in Berbice, which was an inferior estate to Rose Hall, having been much more recently established. He promised to pay 30,000*l.* upon the spot, and to give security for the payment of the remainder upon very short instalments. The offer was made by us and refused. The proprietor was not willing to take less than 75,000*l.* at that time; so that I think Rose Hall might very fairly be estimated at 60,000*l.* at that time, though in this statement of its value in 1840 I take it only at 42,000*l.*

2493. What opportunities have the stipendiary magistrates generally of becoming acquainted with net returns of the sugar estates in their district?—I should think they have none except what they pick up in the course of conversation from the managers and attorneys of the proprietors, or from any proprietors who may reside there, although there are very few; I should think their opportunities are very limited of acquiring accurate information. They may have very good ideas of the extent of the crop, because that passes under their eyes, and as to the amount of the wages; and in both those particulars Captain Allen's Report is not very far from the mark; but in all other respects it is extremely incorrect, principally in the price of sugar. It may be said that that was a mistake on his part; but it is a mistake that has done us a great deal of evil.

2494. Do the attorneys and managers of absentee proprietors possess any correct information upon that subject?—None at all; they know very little of what the state of the account with any estate is, unless it is laid before them in the way of complaint by the proprietor.

2495. Do you look upon it to be in the power of the attorneys of absentee proprietors to evade the customs, as regards the fair registration of the sugar?—No, I should think it was not possible; I have no idea that such a thing has ever been done.

2496. Can they dispose of reserved sugars to the foreign markets, to the manifest loss of the proprietor?—I should think it was impossible; of course, when property is intrusted to people, and the proprietor is residing at a great distance, a great deal may be done that he does not know, but upon such a scale as that it would soon reach his knowledge.

2497. Under the inquisitorial system of half-yearly reports to the Governor, is it not the direct interest of every manager, in order to enhance his reputation, to overstate to the stipendiary magistrate the amount of the crop he is making, and to understate the amount of wages he is paying?—I should think so. Those reports are generally circulated in this country; and I think it is the wish of every manager, who wishes to recommend himself to proprietors at home, to represent the state of things on the property upon which he is residing as flourishing as possible, with any regard to truth. I think most of the reports which reach this country are highly coloured.

2498. Is a report thus elicited of sufficient weight to throw any doubt upon the detailed statements set forth at a public meeting of the most respectable inhabitants of the colony?—It will be for the Committee to judge of that after they have heard what I have said about the report. As far as my knowledge extends, I should think that very little weight indeed was due to it, and that the statements made at the meeting referred to cannot be in the slightest degree rebutted by anything stated in that report.

2499. Has not Governor Light referred to the return in question for this purpose?—Yes, I should think that he does, from the despatches contained in the Blue Book, in which he hints that a very different state of things exists in Berbice, from that which was represented at the public meeting at which those statements were made; and I think that is the impression which has been created by the circulation of the report in this country.

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2500. You stated that you knew Herstelling and other properties situated in the vicinity?—I know very little about them personally, but I know their situation.

2501. Have the negroes there any means of subsistence independently of their personal labour?—I think at Herstelling they have much greater means of subsistence, independently of labour, than they have anywhere else in the colony; it is the extreme estate on that side of the river, close to a great deal of bush and a great deal of abandoned land.

2502. Can they, if they refuse to work, retire to that bush or unoccupied land?—It is possible, but I do not think that in their present state of civilisation there is much danger of their doing that; they have acquired too many wants and too luxurious habits to live in the bush; at the same time they could support themselves there for a certain time, if they had any object in doing it.

2503. What are the animals that they can kill for food in the bush?—There are three or four kinds of deer, and there are peccary or wild hogs, and various kinds of game in the bush.

2504. Do they catch fish?—Catching fish is a very easy matter indeed, especially in dry weather, in Berbice, they let off the water in the trenches, and catch the fish at the bottom without the slightest difficulty.

2505. How are they as to their inclinations as to theft, and as to robbing the plantain grounds?—I believe there is a good deal of petty theft goes on; but I think it arises more from their not rightly understanding the new relations that have arisen between themselves and their masters in consequence of emancipation than from any disposition to theft upon a large scale. They were in the habit of considering that everything that belonged to their masters belonged to them, and *vice versâ*. I have often had statements made to me by the negroes, that what was mine was theirs, though I have attempted to convince them of the contrary.

2506. Do you look upon the emancipated negro as upon much the same footing with regard to his independence as the English labourer?—I think that in consequence of the small supply of labour, he is upon a much more independent footing with regard to his employer, and he is quite as free an agent in every other respect.

2507. Do you look upon the proprietor of an estate to be as much master of his own property as a proprietor in England?—He cannot be master of his own property as long as he is dependent for its very existence upon the supply of labour that the labourer may choose to afford to him.

2508. Do you think that it would tend to produce a greater reliance on each other if the rights of fishing in the river were vested in the proprietors of the land on either side, as also the rights to the wild animals of chase, such as deer and hogs in and upon the borders of private property, in much the same manner as those rights are vested in England?—I think it would be scarcely possible to carry any regulations for that purpose into effect; at the same time, I do not see why there should be any more objection to them in that country than in other countries. But I do not know that the effect of them would be very beneficial, as far as labour was concerned.

2509. So long as the rivers and the adjoining forests are open to the negroes for the purposes of hunting and of obtaining food, do you think they will be inclined to work readily?—Provided they make steady progress in civilisation, I think they will, because I do not think their wants will ever be supplied by those resources.

2510. What is your opinion in their present state; do you think that in their present situation they would be inclined, under those circumstances, to work?—I think it will be impossible to produce a disposition to work by any restrictions of that sort. In a colony situated like British Guiana, I think you must induce them to work by creating a higher degree of civilisation and greater wants. I do not think that by restricting them from shooting and fishing you will increase their desire to work in the production of exportable articles; they may work more on their own grounds, but you do not bring them to cultivate exportable produce more.

2511. If a number of the British proprietors were ruined, and the chief part of the lands fell into the hands of the black population, do you think that, morally and religiously, that portion of the colonies of which you are now speaking would maintain

maintain its position, and advance in civilisation?—I think that if capital were annihilated, which I suppose must follow such an event as that contemplated, they certainly would not, because they would not possess the same means of religious instruction and of education, and the same means of civil government as they do now, and therefore they must retrogade if left to themselves.

2512. Have you known estates purchased by negroes?—When I was in the colony, I never knew anything that could be called an estate purchased by them. I have known considerable tracts of land purchased by negroes who lived upon my own estate, but I never knew anything that could be called an estate.

2513. Was the land that they purchased, purchased individually or in companies?—They purchased it, generally speaking, in companies.

2514. Did they continue to work upon the estates so purchased, or did they break up the partnership and become squatters?—I think their object in purchasing it in companies was only for the facility of dividing it among themselves subsequently. I do not think they had any object of carrying it on as a partnership concern, and I do not think there has been the slightest evidence of such intention upon their part.

2515. Did they cultivate sugar?—I do not think they have raised a pound of sugar upon any land that they have purchased for themselves. They cultivate canes sometimes in their own gardens, but I have not heard that they have cultivated sugar upon any land that they have purchased in that way. I know that it was offered to them by the proprietor of a neighbouring estate, one of the estates they bought in Demerara, that he would take off their canes, giving them half the produce, but they utterly refused to put in a cane. That is one of the estates mentioned in Governor Light's report, Orange Nassau. The offer was made by the proprietor of the adjoining estate, who told me of it.

2516. Have you known the negroes refuse to cut the canes when ripe unless at an advance of wages?—I have known that they have demanded an advance of wages when they knew that they were ready to begin the crop.

2517. Was the advance reasonable or extortionate that they demanded?—I think the rate of wages was already so high that no advance demanded could be called reasonable, but I dare say they thought that any wages were fair that they could obtain for their labour, and that therefore perhaps they were justified in insisting upon them.

2518. Is it the fact that during the last year the price of a hogshead of sugar was not sufficiently high to cover the expense of making it in the colony?—Yes, that is the undoubted fact, as regards the colony generally. As regards my individual estates in the colony, I may take the opportunity of mentioning that the Chairman put some questions to me the last time, regarding details which I was not then prepared to answer, but that I am now prepared with accounts and documents, and I can go into the minutest details with regard to the cultivation of my own estates, and I think they will prove that the highest price of sugar has not in the slightest degree remunerated me for the cost of producing it.

2519. *Chairman.*] Will you state the information which you are able to give?—What I have here is a memorandum of the details of the value of the estates, and the expenditure in wages, and the number of labourers, at different periods, from the 1st of January 1838 down to the present time. I have likewise the different plantation documents which are sent home monthly, in case any Member of the Committee should wish to see the sources from which this statement has been compiled.

2520. Will you have the goodness to state the results?—I will confine myself to one estate, but I believe that estate affords a fair average of the whole; that is the Highbury Estate, the larger estate of the two. It consists of about 2,500 acres. It was purchased by my father and Mr. Davidson, in 1822, for 54,000 *l.*, and negroes to the extent of 10,000 *l.* were subsequently added to it; so that it was worth, in 1834, at the period of the commencement of the apprenticeship, fully 60,000*l.* sterling; and, in confirmation of that fact, to show that it is not my own opinion only, the valuation put upon the negroes alone in 1834, by the colonial assessors, for the purpose of distributing the compensation, was 48,450 *l.*, at the average of prices of the preceding seven years, which, I believe, was the regulation they adopted. The compensation awarded was 18,555 *l.*, and the value of the estate, as evidenced in its returns for 10 years, from 1827 to 1836, was 5,064 *l.* on the average

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average per annum, or about 8 ½ per cent. on the capital invested, taking it at 60,000*l.* The returns since that period I can also state, and which show the immense difference that has taken place since the total emancipation in 1838. The income in 1837 was a little more than the average; it was 5,494*l.* The income in 1838, which was the year in which freedom took place, was not much affected, as a great part of the crop had been made by the 1st of August: it was 4,790*l.*, or a very little within the average of the previous 10 years. The income in 1839, which was the first year in which the free system could be fairly said to be at work, had fallen down to 2,194*l.* In 1840, it was 529*l.* against the estate, for the expenditure, notwithstanding the high prices which prevailed; and in 1841, the balance against the estate was 3,500*l.* So that the working of the estate, since the commencement of freedom in 1838, has been that, instead of returning any interest upon the capital invested, it has left a loss of about 2,000*l.* on the transactions of the three years. I have also prepared, for the information of the Committee, a statement of the expenditure in the colony, in order to account for this decrease of income. I will state the expenditure during three different years, taken during the periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and total freedom, showing the contingencies in the colony, and the supplies from Great Britain in those three years. The result is, that the expenses of the estate in 1832, which was the middle year of the triennial period of slavery chosen, were 4,065*l.*; the expenses of the estate in 1836, which was one of the most flourishing years of the three unbroken ones of apprenticeship, were 6,330*l.*; and in freedom, in 1840, they were 10,445*l.* The average crop in three years of slavery, 1831, 1832, and 1833, was 457 hogsheads of sugar; the cost of production in those three years, exclusive of interest on capital, was 6*s.* 8*d.* per cwt.; the interest on capital, taking it on 60,000*l.* at six per cent. would be 10*s.* 4*d.* per cwt., making 17*s.* per cwt. as the price which remunerated the proprietor for the cost of production in those three years. The average crop in the three years of apprenticeship 1835, 1836, 1837, was a little increased by accidental circumstances; it was 505 hogsheads. The average cost of production was a little less, from the increase of crop, 6*s.* 1*d.* per cwt., interest on capital was reduced by the amount of compensation which had been received, and therefore I have only taken it on 40,000*l.*, and on the increased crop it is only 6*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.; therefore 12*s.* 3*d.* would have been sufficient to remunerate the proprietor for the cost of production in those three years. The average crop of the three years of freedom was 238 hogsheads of sugar, or just about half the average of the three years of slavery, and less than half the average of the three years of apprenticeship. The average cost of production for those three years of freedom has been 40*s.* 3*d.* and the average per cwt. of the interest upon capital for the reduced value will amount to 14*s.* 5*d.*, which would make 54*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. as the price which would have remunerated the proprietor during those three years. I have also a statement of the amount of wages paid.

2521. Is that amount of wages comprised in the statement you have just made as to the general expenses of the estate?—It is included in the statement of the expenses entering into the cost of production in each year; the amount of wages paid to the negroes in the five months of 1838 was 490*l.*, and the Coolies who were at work upon the estate received 230*l.*; but then there were allowances to the negroes and Coolies in the shape of fish, and plantains, and rice, which are charged in the colony at 1,320*l.*, making the total cost paid for labour in five months of 1838, 1,040*l.* In 1839 the amount paid to the negroes was 2,373*l.* in cash, 545*l.* to the Coolies, and 1,330*l.* for the value of allowances, which made the sum of 4,248*l.* paid for labour in the year 1839. In 1840 the amount paid to the negroes for wages was 2,694*l.*, and the amount received by the Coolies had increased considerably; it was 680*l.* The allowances were diminished, amounting to 892*l.*, and the total cost of labour in that year was 4,266*l.* In 1841 the wages to the negroes had diminished a little; they were 2,470*l.*; the Coolies had again increased to 915*l.*; the allowances were about the same, being 900*l.*, making a total of 4,285*l.* The result of the whole is, that the negroes have received 8,027*l.* in wages, the Coolies 2,370*l.*; the allowances to both of them together, exclusive of the supplies sent from Great Britain for the Coolies, amounted to 3,442*l.*, making a total of 13,839*l.* paid for labour during those three years and a half. I stated also, at my last examination, that the number of acres cultivated had fallen to about one-third what it was in the year 1838. The number of acres, on the 1st of January 1838, in cultivation were 517 ½, and about

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100 were in plantains; the plantains were abandoned for want of labour at the commencement of freedom. The number of acres in cultivation on the 1st of January 1839 was 490 ¾; in 1840 it was the same, as none had yet been abandoned; in 1841 it fell to 345; in 1842 it fell to 180, or nearly one-third of the cultivation of 1838. I have also an account as regards the number of negro labourers working in each of the several years since the emancipation took place: on the 1st of August 1834 the total number of negroes was 387; I stated it the other day, from recollection, at 400. There were headmen and tradesmen, 43 males; first class field labourers, 71 males, 111 females, making together 182; second class field labourers, 24 males, 39 females, making together 63; the aged, diseased, and non-effective amounted together to 60; the children under six years of age, who were set free at the time, amounted to 38, and one inferior domestic, making a total of 387. That is taken from the valuation put upon them by the Compensation Commissioners on the 1st of August 1838, which was the period of emancipation; deducting the children and those who had purchased their freedom, the number of labourers residing upon the estate was 297; and when I arrived in the colony in 1838 I found about 60 people had left the estate and returned to an abandoned coffee estate, from which they had been brought about 10 years before, so that the number of people on the estate was about 240. I found from the Plantation Journal sent home, that on the 1st of January 1839 there were on the pay list 115 men and 105 women; but the proportion of work which they afforded during the year, as compared with what we could demand from our apprentices, may be judged from a return which I made out from the estates' books in November 1838, at the time I was there. From the 1st to the 11th of November 1837, or 10 working days, an average of 216 days' labour was afforded by the gang then residing upon the estate, making a total of 2,158 days; from the 1st to the 12th of November 1838, the first year of emancipation, or 10 working days, an average of only 92 days was performed, making 924 days as against 2,158 in the time of apprenticeship. Part of the explanation of that is, that there were two Saturdays included in that period, and on Saturday, in freedom, no field labour has been performed. That would account for a part of the reduction, but for a very small part of it.

2522. Was not Saturday a holiday during slavery?—Not in Berbice. On the 1st of January 1840 there were on the pay-list 111 men and 102 women, who performed during that year about 30,000 tasks, or scarcely the labour of 100 labourers working a task every day except Sundays; and on the 1st of January 1841 there were on the estate 258 people, who performed equal to the labour of 95 people working continuously; I may add that it was in November 1841, when a gentleman whom I sent out to the colony found that there were 258 people residing upon the estate, of whom 97 had for some months previously performed no labour at all, except working upon their own grounds, that he, in consequence of that, with the concurrence of the stipendiary magistrate, attempted the system of rent before alluded to, which I have no doubt will not succeed, but which was considered to be the only course he could adopt. On the 1st of January 1842 there were on the pay-list only 80 men, 61 women, and two children working, out of the 38 children who were set free at the age of six years in 1834, who would be, therefore, nearly 14 years of age at that time; and those 143 people performed, on the average, the labour of 83 apprentices during the month of January 1842. The whole statement shows that the decrease in cultivation, and the decrease of crop, and the decrease in the amount of labour afforded, have all been in the same proportion during that period of four years.

2523. Mr.

ANALYSIS of the foregoing Statements respecting PLANTATION "HIGHBURY."

Digest, No. 1.—VALUE OF PROPERTY.

Estimated Market Price in 1834.	Extent.	Number of Slaves.	Valuation of Slaves for Compensation.	Compensation awarded.	Average Income for 12 years, ending 31 December 1838.	Income, 1839.	Deficit, 1840.	Deficit, 1841.
£.	Acres.		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
60,000	2,500	387	48,450	18,555	5,080	2,194	529	3,500

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Digest, No. 2.—Comparative Gross Expenditure.

	1832. SLAVERY.	1836. APPRENTICESHIP.	1840. FREEDOM.
	£.	£.	£.
Contingencies in Colony	2,985	3,920	8,440
Supplies from Great Britain	1,080	2,410 (*a*)	2,005 (*a*)
Cost of Crop £.	4,065	6,330	10,445

Digest, No. 3.—Comparative Cost of Production.

	YEARS.	Hogsheads.	Cwt.	Cost of Production.	Interest on Capital, at 6 per Cent on £. 60,000.	Price at which Sugar was grown, exclusive of Charges in Great Britain.
				s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Average Crop, three years slavery	1831, 1832, 1833 (*b*)	457	7,000	6 8 per cwt.	10 4	17 – per cwt.
Year of transition	1834	616	—	—	—	—
Average Crop, three years apprenticeship	1835, 1836, 1837	505	8,122	6 1 per cwt.	Interest on Capital less compensation. 6 2	12 3 per cwt.
Year of transition	1838	361	—	—	—	—
Average Crop, three years freedom	1839, 1840, 1841	238	3,454	40 3 per cwt.	14 5	54 8 per cwt.

Digest, No. 4.—Cost of Labour.—(included in the calculations of Digests, Nos. 2 & 3.)

YEARS.	MONEY WAGES. Negroes.	MONEY WAGES. Coolies.	Allowances to Labourers in the Colony.	Total Cost of Labour.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Five months of 1838	490	230	320	1,040
1839	2,373	545	1,330	4,248
1840	2,694	680	892	4,266
1841	2,470	915	900	4,285
£.	8,027	2,370	3,442	13,839

Digest, No. 5.—Comparative Statement of Negro Labour, Cultivation, and Crop.

	1838. On Pay-list.	1838. Effective Strength (*c*).	1839. On Pay-list.	1839. Effective Strength.	1840. On Pay-list.	1840. Effective Strength.	1841. On Pay-list.	1841. Effective Strength.	1842. On Pay-list.	1842. Effective Strength.
Labourers	299	239	220	94	213	100	213	95	143	82
Cultivation on 1 Jan.	517 ½ acres (*d*).		490 ¾ acres.		490 acres (*e*).		345 acres.		180 acres (*f*).	
Crop made	361 hogsheads.		282 hogsheads (*g*).		256 hogsheads.		175 hogsheads.		—	

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

(*a*) The supplies from Great Britain, though reduced in the third period by the non-shipment of negro clothing, are increased to nearly the same extent by the expenses of the Coolie labourers, and in both of the last periods there is a great increase, owing to the steam-engine being supplied with coals from this country at a cheaper cost than wood can be cut on the estate at the present rate of wages for labour.

(*b*) The average crop of this triennial period was unduly influenced by the severe drought of 1832, in which year the estate made only 394 hogsheads 5 trcs. sugar.

(*c*) The estimate of effective strength is calculated from the number of tasks performed, compared with the number of working days in a year as during apprenticeship.

(*d*) One hundred acres of plantains, kept in cultivation for the food of the negroes abandoned from the necessity of transferring all available labour to upholding sugar cultivation.

(*e*) One hundred and fifty acres of canes were abandoned in the course of this year, from want of labour to convert the canes into sugar, and the same occurred again in 1841.

(*f*) Forty-three acres of canes, in addition to the above 180, are established for crop 1843.

(*g*) The crop of this year was estimated at 490 hogsheads in the beginning of the year, and with sufficient labour might have been easily secured.

2523. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] If a reduction in the duty on foreign sugar were to take place, what effect do you think that would have on the prospects of British Guiana?—I think the effect of a reduction in the duty on foreign sugar, without a corresponding reduction in the duty on British plantation sugar, if proposed at the present moment, would be to deter capitalists from making any further effort to render the capital invested in British Guiana productive, and that they would abandon the cultivation altogether; they would transfer their machinery, stock, and whatever could be removed to the neighbouring slave colonies, Surinam or Cayenne, and give the production of sugar up as impossible in competition with slavery. I believe that would be the course that I should feel inclined to pursue myself, and I believe it would be generally pursued.

2524. Are you acquainted with estates that received compensation at the time of the emancipation?—Yes; I have stated the details of several.

2525. In any instance has it come within your knowledge that up to the present hour such compensation so received has been expended in an endeavour to induce the labourers to work, and in keeping up the estate, without receiving any profit in return?—I cannot say that any precise instance to that extent has come to my knowledge, but I have no doubt that a great portion of the compensation received by the proprietors has been spent in that endeavour; I cannot state that it is entirely absorbed yet, but I think it is in process of absorption very rapidly.

2526. What was the value put upon the negroes previous to the emancipation in British Guiana?—I believe it was between 9,000,000*l.* and 10,000,000*l.* The commissioners who assessed the value of the labouring population, upon an average of the preceding seven years, valued them at 9,500,000*l.* The amount of compensation paid was about one-half; the Return from the Compensation Office gives the proportion to British Guiana at 4,297,000*l.* In my case, as just shown, the amount of compensation awarded was not nearly one-half of the valuation put upon the negroes.

2527. Are you speaking of the valuation strictly confined to the negroes?—Yes.

2528. In the state of labour in British Guiana at present, is there much change among the labourers from property to property?—I think there has been very little change, considering that every man is at perfect liberty to go wherever he likes; most of those who were slaves have remained upon the estate to which they were formerly attached, unless they had been brought from abandoned plantations, which was the case to a considerable extent; there has been then a transfer.

2529. When they refuse to work, do they linger around the former scene of their labours, or do they go at once and seek other employments?—I think they generally occupy their houses and grounds upon the estate till some process of ejectment is commenced.

2530. Is there much competition between the planters as to the hire of labourers, or is there a general rate of wages agreed upon by the community?—The competition among the planters creates one general rate of wages; the competition is so great that no man can offer less than his neighbour, and if his neighbour increases the allowances he must do so. The rate of wages is very uniform, and the advantages enjoyed by the labourers are very uniform.

2531. Is the police effective in Berbice?—I believe it is effective for all the purposes required. There is very little necessity for police; the population are very orderly and quiet.

2532. In British Guiana have you known a belief to exist among the negroes, that when they were made free the Queen gave them their houses and land?—I believe that was a very general belief at first. I was told by negroes on Highbury estate, when I went there, that it was all nonsense that the Queen made them free without giving them a free house and free land; and they called upon me to carry out that proposition, by giving up the houses and grounds. I attempted to explain the system of tenancy, but I could not make them comprehend it in the least; they had no idea of paying anything at all. They have of course gained considerable experience upon the subject since; and I do not think at present there would be any obstacle to the introduction of a system of tenancy, if an efficient law were passed.

2533. As regards the introduction of machinery, are there any other obstacles but the expense to the introduction of the steam-plough into British Guiana?—I do not think there are. I saw an attempt at ploughing by steam there, and from the canals, which give them the power of floating the steam-engine along, I should

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think it very feasible. But all those improvements, of course, require the outlay of capital, which, at the present moment, when the capital already invested is unproductive, cannot be expected.

2534. Does the same observation apply to the canal excavator?—I think it does; the canal excavator, and another machine recently invented for throwing out the mud from canals already dug, might save considerable expense. I was waited upon lately by an engineer, recently arrived from the colony to make known an invention for the latter purpose, and he showed me that the expenditure would be about 2,000*l.*: he wanted to get 50 proprietors to join. I offered to be one of them; but he found it impossible to get other parties to come forward and join the subscription, and I believe the attempt has been abandoned.

2535. Would not those, and many other agricultural improvements, have been introduced before this into British Guiana, but for the disastrous results which have ensued to the proprietors from the sudden abrogation of the apprenticeship?—I think there can be no doubt that they were reasoning by analogy. During the period of the apprenticeship an immense quantity of machinery was introduced, and great economy of manual labour was effected, and I have no doubt that would have gone on, had estates prospered, till the introduction of machinery was carried to the greatest possible extent; but of course it cannot when the proprietors are sinking capital, and losing the income formerly derived from it, the way I have stated.

2536. Have any improvements in machinery been introduced of late years into British Guiana?—I think none have been carried into effect since the emancipation; there were many, as mentioned, during the apprenticeship. The cane elevator, and the megass elevator, for carrying away the refuse of the canes, and pileing it up in the storehouses for fuel, economised labour to the extent of 20 labourers upon every estate where they were introduced, which would be taking the number of estates in the colony at 220, an economy of labour to the extent of nearly 4,000 labourers.

2537. An enormous saving of manual labour would have resulted?—Yes; I think the principal part of the increase of the crops during the apprenticeship was caused by the increased quantity of machinery which was added to the manual labour already in existence, for the conversion of coffee plantations into sugar estates hardly had time to develope its effects, though by this time they would have been very conspicuous in Berbice.

2538. Has not a large portion of the compensation-money been laid out in introducing machinery?—I have no doubt that a large portion of it was; in my own case it was to the extent of more than 3,000*l.*; and I believe in many cases the proprietors laid out the whole of the compensation-money.

2539. Was not a great part of the increase of crop, during the apprenticeship, attributable to those improvements?—I attribute it almost entirely to them.

2540. Would not the improvements alluded to in agriculture and machinery have occasioned the production of very much increased crops throughout the colony generally, had the supply of manual labour remained merely as large as it was during the period of apprenticeship?—I have no doubt that if that had been the result of the emancipation, if the supply of manual labour had remained as it was, an introduction of machinery to an immense extent would have taken place; I believe there are no limits to its introduction in a level country, with the facility of water communication that exists in British Guiana.

2541. Do the same number of children as formerly perform the light work upon the estates?—Certainly not; I mentioned with regard to my own estate of Highbury, that out of 38 children who were set free on the 1st of August 1834, as being under the age of six years, only two on the 1st January 1842 were performing any work at all; except in some favoured districts of the colony, where exertions have been made by clergymen or by others to induce the people to get their children to work, very few of what are called "Stanleys," by having been set free by Lord Stanley's Act, are at work.

2542. Do any of those children known as Stanleys ever do any work?—I think, latterly, some few of them have commenced to work, but for a long time they did none.

2543. Those children vary in age, from nine to 15 year sold?—Yes; from nine to 14.

2544. Do they remain up to that age at school?—I think they go to school generally, though not very regularly; in 1838, out of 9,893 children set free in 1834,

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1834, and therefore four to ten years of age, 6,600, or probably all capable of receiving efficient instruction, were at school. I am glad to add that I have lately received a letter from a clergyman in the colony, in which he states that he has succeeded in getting 50 or 60 children of 14 to leave school, and apply themselves to industrious pursuits.

2545. Have they generally been put to handicraft trades by their parents?—I do not think they have much in British Guiana; in the other colonies they have to a great extent; they seemed to think that it was a superior occupation to be employed as handicraft workmen, to field labour; but in British Guiana the wages of field labour have been so high that that has not been the case there.

2546. Do their parents appear to consider their children, born free, as in any degree exempted, in consequence of that, from field labour?—In the first instance they certainly did so; I have been repeatedly told by negroes, when I have asked them why they did not make their idle children work, who were running about doing nothing; I have been repeatedly told that they were born free; and I think they would, at first, have worked their own fingers to the bone before they would have made their children do the slightest work. But I think that feeling must wear off in process of time, and is wearing off.

2547. In the present circumstances of British Guiana, with regard to the want of a continuous supply of labour, do you think that estates can be kept up, so as to remunerate the proprietor, at the current prices of produce?—I have shown that the result of my estate, Highbury, in 1840, when produce was selling a hundred per cent. higher, looking at the nett proceeds, than it now is, was to leave me a loss of 529*l.*; and that last year, when the price had fallen, it left, in consequence, a loss of 3,500*l.*; and therefore I think that completely answers the question, that it is impossible that the proprietors can go on upholding their estates, even for another year, unless some alteration takes place.

2548. How long would it be, after the arrival of any immigrant in the colony, before the effects of his labour would be apparent in the exportation of an increased quantity of sugar?—It would require some time. From the time at which the sugar cane is cut, to the time when it is fit for conversion into sugar again, is about 13 or 14 months. At least 18 months must elapse before any effect arises from immigration, as to the quantity of produce actually exported. Good effect, however, will arise before that, as to the quantity of labour bestowed upon the estates. I have no doubt that the immigration already into British Guiana, will show a sensible improvement next year, but as yet I do not think it has had time to do so.

2549. Has there been any considerable immigration into British Guiana?—Yes, there has been considerable immigration; as many as 8,150 labourers were introduced during the course of last year; only 4,535 were reckoned to be effective agriculturalists. Their labour has had no time yet to show itself; but I should think the crop of this year will be beneficially affected by it.

2550. Has it been to a sufficient extent to compensate for the constant diminution in the home supply of labour?—It is very difficult to answer that question; but there is no doubt that a considerable diminution in the supply of labour from the emancipated population, has been going on during the last year, I should think to as great an extent as during any year previous. The purchases of property they have made, in the two last years, have amounted to at least 100,000*l.* sterling; and the effect of that, as evidenced in the reports of all the stipendiary magistrates, has been to divert a certain portion of their labour from estates upon which they were resident as labourers.

2551. Whence have the immigrants been obtained?—They have been obtained principally from the island of Madeira; but as a number of Africans were obtained either direct from Sierra Leone or from Rio, together about 1,000; and 3,000 or 4,000 were obtained from Madeira. The remainder have come in from neighbouring West India islands.

2552. Do the proprietors of lands in those islands complain of this emigration; and will it not occasion a falling off in their production of sugar?—I have no doubt that they do complain; I have the misfortune to be a proprietor in the island of Grenada, from which a considerable emigration, to the extent of about 3,000, has taken place to Trinidad, the effect of which has been to diminish the productiveness of the colony to an extent fully equal to the benefit derived by the other colony.

2553. Then to what sources do you look for an adequate supply of labourers?—I believe the great source that is looked to by the planters in Demerara is the

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west coast of Africa at the present moment; but, as far as my own individual opinions are concerned, I see no reason why we should not look to a supply from India.

2554. Do not the prolific soil, the level surface, and the boundless water communication and carriage in British Guiana, adapt it for producing sugar at as cheap a rate as any country in the world?—I have not the slightest doubt that they do. I think the returns laid before the Committee by the witness previous to me, showing the cost of production during three years of slavery, and the statements I have made this morning, will show that in British Guiana they had nothing to fear, under the old system, in competition with any country; at present, of course, it would be impossible to stand any competition at all.

2555. As to the condition of the immigrants, is the ratio of mortality decreasing in proportion as they are longer settled in the colony?—Yes, I think it is; in one instance, as far as regards the Coolies, with whom I am connected, it has decreased wonderfully. In short, almost the entire mortality was during the first few months. The whole mortality among the Coolies, on Highbury, in the year 1838, was 12 who died out of the 114 who were indentured; in the next year only three died, and in the year 1840 four died, and the last year two only died. I do not think the mortality continues at all in the same ratio as at first.

2556. As regards the social and moral condition of the negroes, can you give a detailed statement of the extent to which religious and moral instruction has been afforded by the legislature of the colony?—It may be very correctly ascertained, I think, from the charge of the Bishop of Barbadoes, when he visited the colony, in the year 1839; as also in the report by Mr. Latrobe, who went as commissioner of education to Guiana and Trinidad. I find from the report of the Bishop, that there were at the time when he was in the colony, 19 clergymen of the Church of England, and about 38 catechists; that there were 14 churches, three chapels, and 16 chapel schools; six schoolhouses, independent of chapels, and 14 private schools, licensed for public worship, besides many more that were building. There is also a Roman Catholic bishop in the colony, and four priests, who are paid more or less by the Government of the colony. There is also an establishment for the Dutch Lutheran population, and there are as many as eight schools of the Wesleyan and London Missionary Society in the colony; so that, in proportion to the extent of the population, and the extent of the cultivated part of the colony, no greater provision has ever been made for the wants of any labouring population than is made in British Guiana.

2557. Mr. *Howard.*] Do you include in the expenditure of the estates since freedom, instalments on mortgages and payments of loans which were made upon the crops?—My estate is an unincumbered property, and never had any mortgage upon it.

2558. Do you include the expenses of buildings for the negroes?—There is no doubt included in the general expense of the production of the last three years, the money that has been laid out in building the houses for the negroes; but upon my estate it is to a very small extent, for the houses previously were pretty good, and in anticipation of the arrival of the Coolies, more houses had been put up during apprenticeship than were required, and those have been given to the few emigrants who had been located there besides the Coolies.

2559. Is not that generally a source of great expense to the planter?—It has been during the last few years a source of considerable expense; it averages from 50*l.* to 100*l.* sterling for each house.

2560. With regard to Highbury Estate, how is it for healthiness with regard to the negroes?—I believe for the negroes it is considered as healthy as any other part of the colony. Governor Light has expressed an opinion that river estates are not generally so healthy as those upon the coast; but I think he has applied what is true with regard to the white population, to the black population to too great an extent. I do not think the mortality, according to the registrations during slavery, on the river estates was greater among the black population than upon the coast estates. As regards the white inhabitants, the coast estates are the healthiest, because of the sea-breezes.

2561. Has there been any decrease in the number of the negroes since the commencement of freedom?—It is almost impossible to estimate in British Guiana. A census was proposed to be taken at the time of the emancipation, but it was disallowed by the Home Government, because they thought it would perpetuate recollections of the condition of the people at that time, which had better be buried

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in oblivion; but I should think that, generally speaking, the negro population are beginning to increase very rapidly from natural causes, though the ratio of increase cannot for a long time to come be large in proportion to the total population from the inequality of the sexes, which in 1832-3 was 4,500, and cannot therefore, though daily decreasing numerically from the excess of female births, be in a state of equilibrium as respects increase from natural causes for many years to come. I do not think immediately after emancipation the population increased, because I think the care bestowed upon the children, and upon the aged and ineffective labourers, was not so great as it was during the apprenticeship.

2562. You have not found that your negroes had left your property?—I stated that about 60 had returned to a property from which they were brought about 10 years before; but, except those, I do not think any of them had left. Most of them came back when I was there, and I believe have continued there since.

2563. Has there been a dissatisfaction among them in consequence of the rules and regulations that were issued on the 1st of January?—Those rules do not extend to Berbice at all; they were attempted in Demerara, but I believe they were not approved of by the parties in this country connected with property there; they were merely the attempts of a drowning man to catch at a straw. The planters found they were losing money by their estates, and they thought if they proposed some stringent resolutions they might be able to carry part of them into effect, but I do not think they ever seriously intended to carry all those regulations into effect. But they did not extend to Berbice, and in no instance have they been attempted to be carried out in Berbice.

2564. *Chairman.*] You have adverted, in the course of your evidence, to a public meeting which was held in British Guiana, at which public meeting Sir Michael M'Turk was the chairman; why was it that the committee which was formed in connection with that meeting did not make any statement with regard to any properties in Berbice?—The communication between Demerara and Berbice, though they are situated very close together, is not at all well managed. Until the year 1831 they were totally distinct governments, and I think the community of feeling between the planters in the two districts is very small, as they have always had rival interests. The planters of Demerara, in the first instance, offered higher wages to the people who left Berbice; and since the planters in Demerara have attempted to reduce wages, the negroes have gone back to Berbice to a great extent. Then this meeting appears to have been got up in haste, in consequence of a reported fall in the price of produce in this country, and other matters of that kind, and they did not take time to consult the planters of Berbice.

2565. If any considerable portion of the estates in Berbice had been brought within the report of that committee, is it your opinion that the result presented would have been the same?—I think it would.

2566. Equally disastrous?—Yes. There are about 30 sugar estates in Berbice altogether. I have already referred to five or six of those, and shown that the state of things is much the same as that stated by the Demerara planters; and I believe the result is much the same throughout the colony. I know some instances in which they were better and some that were worse, but I believe that the average there is nearly correct.

2567. In a despatch signed by Mr. Young, the Government secretary, the 60 estates reported are stated to be about one-third of the sugar estates in the two counties of Demerary and Essequibo; do you suppose that statement to be correct?—There were 185 sugar estates in Demerara in 1839, since which no new ones have been formed, and 37 in Berbice.

2568. If the whole of the estates had been embraced in the statement of the committee, do you suppose that the result would have been a very different one from that which was afforded by the 60 estates that were given?—I think the 60 given afforded a fair average; I think that the proprietors of those sugar estates that were doing well would not come forward, because they had no great cause of complaint, and also because they would not wish to prejudice the case of their other planters; but I think, on the other hand, that many who were doing very badly would be averse to making such an exposition of their affairs as might injure their credit either in the colony or with their merchants at home.

2569. But still you think there might be a good many estates that were doing, in fact, well?—I think there were some estates that were doing well; I have been told by the proprietors of some estates that they were doing comparatively well, as compared with that statement; I do not mean that they were doing as well as they

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formerly were, but I should think there were not many such cases. It is generally in cases where there were resident proprietors whose interest was great, and whose manners were conciliatory towards the people.

2570. To what cause do you attribute that more favourable result in certain cases?—I think principally to the first reason I have assigned: to the residence of the proprietor, who is enabled to take more responsibility upon himself. You cannot confide such discretionary power to an agent as the proprietor, if on the spot, can exercise himself. I think that, whether in reducing wages or in giving the labourers greater benefits, the resident proprietor has a great advantage; and then those who have been upon the spot have generally succeeded in securing a large portion of the immigrants who arrived.

2571. Have you perused the speech which Sir Michael M'Turk made as chairman of that meeting?—I have, very attentively.

2572. You recollect that it draws the attention of the meeting especially to two points, which he considers essentially necessary to the improvement of estates in British Guiana; in the first place, to the necessity of not allowing labourers to reside upon the estates unless they are willing to give a fair quantity of work to the estate; and in the next place, the necessity of taking care that the work which is to be performed shall be well and properly done; and he then proceeds to add, "I am decidedly of opinion if those two simple and easily accomplished propositions were strictly adhered to, that the colony would be put in a comparative state of prosperity, and the mutual interests of the employer and employed secured;" do you concur in that opinion?—I concur in the opinion that if those two points could be effected, immense improvement would take place in the colony; but I do not concur in thinking that it is a simple and easy matter to accomplish them; I think that with the immense capital that is invested, and the great competition for labour that there is in the colony, it is almost impossible that any unanimity of action on those points by those who have the management of estates should take place; and it certainly has never been accomplished as yet.

2573. Is it your opinion that if, by the adoption of those two propositions, or by other plans, more continuous labour could be obtained from the existing labourers, the supply of labour would be found nearly sufficient, and the necessity for immigration in any great degree obviated?—Not in any great degree; I think it might be lessened; I think that would be one of the first effects of any considerable measure of immigration, and that then the master would have the power of attempting those improvements which Sir Michael M'Turk suggests; as far as it has gone, it has had that effect; on my estate, where 20 captured Africans have been placed, the first effect was, that the manager was enabled to insist upon full days' labour being given, and that more labour was extracted from the resident labourers upon the property for the next two weeks; but I think, without immigration, it would be impossible for individuals to attempt it; I do not think there is the slightest prospect of any successful combination among the planters for the purpose; I think the result of this very attempt to reduce wages shows that, for it has ended in a total failure, none of the planters continuing to adhere to the regulations they had laid down.

2574. Do not you think that the timid practice which appears to have obtained amongst the planters, of allowing men to remain on the estate, whether they work or not, and paying them, whether their work is well or ill done, for fear their labour should be lost, has had a very demoralising effect upon the negroes, and tended to encourage idleness?—Undoubtedly; but I do not think the power is at present in the hands of the managers of estates to put an end to it. If you were to object to the work done by a negro, or to insist upon his labouring more continuously than he does at present, he would remove himself from the estate, and either retire to his own ground, and do more labour upon it, till he thought his master saw his error, or else he would offer his services to some neighbouring proprietor who would accept them, thinking a little labour better than none.

2575. Are not all the planters equally interested in obtaining an improved state of affairs, conducing to a more continuous supply of labour?—I am afraid mankind never see their own ultimate interests in so true a light as not to disregard them at the moment for a present benefit. The momentary benefit of being enabled to make a few hogsheads of sugar more when the price is high, would always induce a man to take his neighbour's labourers when they offered their services.

2576. It appears by recent despatches, that an ordinance was in contemplation for the purpose of encouraging a system of tenancy and payment of rents; do you know

know whether that has passed?—It has passed the second reading, but it is so much objected to by some members of the Court of Policy, that I fear it will not pass; and I consider, that is if it did pass, it would be inoperative; the principal objection being, I believe, the length of notice which it is necessary to give to the negro before taking any further proceeding, which would always give him the power of removing himself out of the jurisdiction of the stipendiary magistrate before whom the information was laid, and therefore you would have to begin *de novo* every time.

2577. Is not that a question of detail, which might be regulated by experience?—It is; but the view taken by the official members of the Court of Policy has been such that the unofficial members have not been able to modify that objection, and therefore I think it will not pass; and if it does pass, I do not think the benefit will be such as we have a right to expect.

2578. Although you acknowledge the demoralising effects of the present system, you do not feel sanguine as to the possibility of cautiously and judiciously returning to a better system?—I think, in the present state of the supply of labour, it is impossible. I think that if all the proprietors were out there, and they could have a meeting, and could talk rationally, and say, "It is for our ultimate interest that this should take place," it might be effected; but as long as there are so many agents acting for absentee proprietors, and so many resident proprietors willing to take advantage of those who are absent, it will be impossible to effect that.

2579. Have you in any instance sold any land upon your own estates to negroes?—No, I have refused to do it hitherto, because upon considering the results of the system I do not think that it is successful, although I think that it may be better than a worse system; it may be better than losing your population altogether. The negroes upon one of my estates have desired to purchase a part of the estate; and they have threatened, if it is not done, to leave the estate, and have pointed to the example of the labourers upon another estate, the Albion, upon the east coast of Berbice, where they withdrew from the estate entirely. The gentleman whom I sent out as my agent offered them a certain portion of the estate, but they insisted upon having a piece of land, not now in cultivation, which is the nearest to the works upon the estate. But I have hitherto stood out, because I consider that it would be a very great objection to have a party of people located close to the buildings upon the estate, from whom you can secure no portion of labour.

2580. You have felt apprehensive that a sale of land to the negroes by the proprietor, would have a tendency to diminish the supply of labour?—I have.

2581. You have stated that the negroes have, in every instance, refused to put a cane into the land they have bought; do you know the reason of that reluctance on their part to cultivate sugar canes?—I can speak to my own knowledge as to their having refused, in one instance, and I know that they have in very many; I think it arises from a feeling, that if they wished to cultivate the sugar cane at all, they might just as well do so upon their master's estate, where there is large capital invested, and every facility for it, as attempt to carry on the cultivation upon their own land, where they have not sufficient capital to effect it. And then they have a notion that the exemption from the cultivation of sugar cane is the real secret of what freedom is. They think that, as long as they are working at the cultivation of canes, they are not perfectly free; but I have no doubt that prejudice may be overcome.

2582. Mr. *Godson.*] You were understood to say that the price of sugar that would be a remunerating price to you, would be about 58*s.*?—I am not aware that I have stated that sum, but if I were asked that question, I should name 56 *s.* as the very lowest price at which, even supposing things were restored to the state in which they were at the period of the termination of the apprenticeship as regards the supply of labour, we could afford to grow sugar under the free system.

2583. What would have been the average price of rum, at the same time that sugar was 58*s.*, that would be a remunerating price?—I understand the question to apply to the proof rum, not to the strong Jamaica rum; I should think a corresponding price for rum in the home market would be about 2*s.* a gallon.

2584. The rum of Demerara is very much improved of late years?—It is; it is put up very strong indeed, and therefore commands a much larger price than

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that. But as regards Berbice, it is generally sent home the lowest proof it can be admitted here.

2585. Upon the estate to which the calculations you have read apply, are the Committee to understand that about 2*s.* would be a remunerating price for rum, at the time that sugar was 58*s.*?—No. As regards my estate, I have gone to great expense in sending out a still, and improving it as far as possible, and the price which my rum commands at present is about 3*s.* 6*d.* a gallon.

2586. Do you consider 3*s.* 6*d.* to be a remunerating price?—Yes.

2587. You have spoken of the necessity for labour upon the estates; about what proportion of white people have you upon your estate?—There are five whites resident upon the estate at present.

2588. What are their general duties?—There is a manager; and there are under him now, three overseers or book-keepers; there is also a white engineer, and also a white man, who is appointed as hospital nurse to attend to the Coolies.

2589. Making six altogether?—Yes.

2590. In Demerara could white people live with comfort to themselves and their families if you introduced more of them at the head of the different departments, the ploughing and the cattle, and other departments?—I think as regards Demerara and British Guiana, I should not like to assume the responsibility of advising Europeans from this country to go out there to any further extent than at present; in other colonies it is very different. In Jamaica the white people may be employed at work; and even in Guiana, as regards coffee estates the principal part of the labour on them might be performed by Europeans, or by persons of European extraction. But the reason why that has never been effected is, because no contracts are allowed to be entered into before they go, and if the people go without indentures, they are offered as soon as they arrive there higher wages than the proprietor of a coffee plantation can allow them, and in disregard of their health, they will go to a sugar estate, whereas if they had been under engagement to go to a coffee estate for a certain period, they would have done that with safety, and probably at the end of the time they would have become acclimated, and would then have been able to work upon a sugar estate. At any rate they could work safely upon the coffee estate, because all the coffee is planted under high groves of trees to shelter it from the sun.

2591. The question did not apply to the labour to be done in the open fields upon a sugar estate, but to being at the head of a particular department; for instance, being the head ploughman, or the head cattle man, whether it would admit of his living in comfort in the country?—I think not. There have been so many instances of mortality among ploughmen, and people of that class going out, who are to do any kind of labour. If they are not to do any kind of labour, the answer would be different; but if they are to perform any kind of manual labour themselves, I could not advise it, because I have seen so many instances of mortality among them. If they are willing to go out and can stand the climate, I have no doubt they would obtain much higher salaries than anywhere else, but I would not recommend it.

2592. You have given a description of an estate; does the answer you have given, with respect to your own estate, present a fair average of the labour and course of production as applicable to other estates generally in Demerara and Berbice?—As regards Berbice, I certainly consider that it does. I am connected in business, I may say, with a fifth of the estates in the province of Berbice, and I know that is a fair account of what they have done during the last three years. But I believe that one of the estates mentioned in that statement of Captain Allen's, was an estate of a resident proprietor, which produced him 7,000 *l.* in 1840.

2593. What was the largest loss that you are aware of, in the case of any estate?—I do not know that I have heard of any larger loss than that in my own case of Highbury; and one other estate that I mentioned, Rose Hall, there was a loss of 2,000 *l.* upon this last year.

2593.* Then, upon the whole, you consider it a fair average?—I do, or else I would not have attempted to offer it to the Committee without some explanation.

2594. Viscount *Howick.*] You said that it would be extremely desirable, if it were practicable, to carry into effect Sir Michael M'Turk's suggestions of enforcing from the negroes more regular labour whenever they are permitted to occupy houses

houses and grounds rent free, but that you considered it practically impossible?—Yes, that is my opinion.

2595. The impossibility arises in a great measure from the power of the negro to withdraw himself altogether from the estate, if that attempt is made by the proprietor?—Yes; I think it arises in the first instance from the total independence of the negro of support from his labour; and, in the second instance, from the great competition for his labour arising from the enormous capital already invested.

2596. From the power which the negro has of maintaining himself as well as he has been accustomed to maintain himself without performing any great amount of labour?—Yes.

2597. If the negro could not maintain himself as well as he hitherto has done, without more labour, you think that would be a strong inducement to him to afford a larger amount of labour to the proprietor?—I think he would afford a larger amount exactly in that proportion, for I think he is just in that state of civilisation that he will not alter his habits in the slightest degree from any restriction as to what he can earn.

2598. Do you think it would be possible by any modification of the existing system of taxation in Demerara, to make it impossible for the negro to obtain his accustomed subsistence and luxuries without performing a greater amount of labour for that purpose?—I should be most delighted to see that accomplished, but I am quite unprepared to point out any way in which it could be; I think the difficulty of anything like direct taxation upon the negro would be very great.

2599. Suppose, instead of a tax upon imports and upon the exports of produce, some of the local expenses of the colony were provided for by a rate upon the houses and grounds occupied by the negroes?—I think there would be such a general shifting among the occupiers of houses and grounds, and such difficulty in collecting that rate, that it would create a bad state of feeling in the minds of the labourers, so as to shake their veneration for the directions and orders of the Government, which at present is very great, and not, perhaps, increase the quantity of labour that was extracted from them.

2600. If the rate were collected in the first instance from the owners of estates, would not that secure a co-operation and unanimity amongst the proprietors in re-imbursing themselves afterwards from the negroes, which you say cannot at present be obtained?—It would be, in fact, an additional direct tax upon the owners of estates, because if they cannot enforce rent for their own houses and their own grounds, I do not see how they can recover any amount of taxation for the Government from the negroes.

2601. They cannot enforce rent at present for their houses and grounds, because the negro, either by a purchase of land, or by going to the estate of some other proprietor, can obtain land without paying a rent; but if a burden in the nature of a rate was universal, and could not be escaped any where within the colony, would it not then be in the power of the proprietors to enforce the repayment by the negroes?—I think if the Government set them the example by collecting the rate upon those negroes who were non-resident upon estates, living upon their own freeholds, it might be possible then for the proprietors of estates to collect it upon those residing upon estates. But it would be very difficult in both instances, and I think the proprietors would have no chance of doing it, unless the Government succeeded.

2602. You have said that the sum of not less than 100,000 *l.* has, within the last few years, been paid by the negroes for land they have purchased?—I think that is a very moderate computation, from the reports in the Blue Book; I believe it is more than that. I know a great deal of land has been sold which has not been reported to the Government.

2603. Do you conceive that, if a rate was imposed upon that property, there can be any doubt that the negroes would prefer paying the rate upon the property, to sacrificing that which they have acquired at so high a price?—I have no doubt they would pay the rate; but I do not think they would pay it till they were obliged. I think that in levying the rate you would have occasion for a much increased police force, and for various machinery which is not required now, and that it would create a state of exasperation between the Government and the labouring population that would be very deplorable, because at present there is a conflict of interests between the proprietors of sugar estates and the labouring population which is only kept quiet and in a state of perfect tranquillity by the influence of the Government being thrown into neither scale. If the negroes thought they were to

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be taxed by the Government, they would just as soon be taxed by the planter for his benefit, in the way of rent.

2604. You think the negroes are not yet in a state of civilisation in which they can be made to understand the necessity of submitting to the imposition of taxes?—I think not direct taxation; with regard to indirect taxation, they may have an idea that they do pay an increased price for an article at the shop, because there is an import duty upon it, but that they would not object to in the slightest degree. But, when you come with a direct taxation, I think they are not in a state of sufficiently advanced civilisation not to elude it in every possible way.

2605. Is not there this disadvantage in resorting to indirect taxation as compared with direct taxation, in the state of society which exists in British Guiana, that by direct taxation you would make mere subsistence expensive to the negro, and compel him to perform a larger amount of labour; and you do not, to the same extent, accomplish that purpose by indirect taxation?—I do not wish to convey the idea that I object to such a system, but I am not prepared to suggest any way of carrying it out. I think the advantage to the proprietors, if it could be done, would be very great. I think they would get exactly that additional portion of labour which was required to pay the tax.

2606. Do not you think that a system of indirect taxation has this disadvantage, that it discourages the negro from forming tastes for luxuries, and imported articles generally, by making those articles dearer?—Yes, I think it does.

2607. Do not you conceive that it is of great importance, in the present state of society in the colony, by every means in the power of the Government, to encourage in the negro a taste for all kinds of imported articles and luxuries?—I think it is; but I do not think the increase of price which results from the trifling duty laid upon imports would have very much effect in that way; I think that the negro obtains money so easily, that perhaps his master only gets a little more labour for the purpose of paying this tax, just as if it were direct taxation.

2608. That is a question of degree?—It is, entirely.

2609. But the tendency of all those taxes is rather to discourage, more or less, the formation of a taste for those different articles?—It certainly must be the effect of taxation on any article to diminish consumption, and to diminish the demand for it on the part of the negroes.

2610. Mr. *Bankes.*] What articles do you particularly refer to in speaking of the luxuries of the negroes?—Certain common luxuries which they are enabled to procure easily; there are very few negroes who do not, on great occasions, have their hams from England, and their wine, and things of that kind; I do not mean to say that they are matters of every day use, but they are very general, and they argue upon them as if they were necessaries of life. I recollect one of the head men upon my estate coming to me and stating that the wages he received were not sufficient, and I went into an argument with him; I asked him what his expenditure could be; I showed him how he might supply himself with almost everything he could require, clothing and everything of that kind; after listening to me attentively he seemed to be convinced; but he put in as a little addition to what he had previously said, "Well master, but what me have left to buy the little Madeira wine that me want." Bottled porter and things of that kind, they look upon almost as necessaries, and they consume them to a large extent.

2611. With regard to those articles which you say they consider necessary, though in point of fact they are not so, do you think that any rise of price would prevent them from still turning their minds to the enjoyment of those articles?—No, I do not think it would; I do not think the high price of those articles is at all a disadvantage to the proprietors of estates at present.

2612. Do you think that a higher price of articles of that description would be more or less obnoxious to their feelings than a direct taxation, such as has been referred to, in the nature of a rate upon their holdings?—I do not think they would make the slightest objection to any increase of taxation in an indirect way; they merely ask the price of an article, and consider what quantity of money they have, and pay for it at once, without considering whether the price is higher or lower than it used to be.

2613. Supposing it to be desirable to increase the wants of the negroes, by way of encouraging them to increased labour, do you think it would be a better mode to place taxation upon those articles of luxury which they choose to consider as necessaries, rather than upon their real necessaries, such as their habitations?—I think myself that I should be rather inclined to some attempt being made at

direct

direct taxation, because I see that the utmost extent of taxation which, by the commercial policy of this country, we are allowed to place upon them in the way of indirect taxation, is trifling in its result; and if we do not get a sufficient supply of labour, to make the cultivation of the staple exports pay, I think it would be very allowable that direct taxation should be thrown upon them, because most of the expenditure of the colony is for their advantage, in proportion to their numbers. It is for benefits which they share with the whites. The total amount of the ways and means in 1840, which was the last published account, was about 150,000 *l.* Out of that I believe there was a vote for emigration, but I do not think that vote was used that year. There was a surplus fund arising from the period when the negroes were not taxed for British goods, which was sufficient for the purposes of immigration in that year; so that no direct taxation has yet fallen upon them for that purpose. I believe that in the course of events it will fall upon them; but that is the only thing in which it may be considered that their immediate benefit was not concerned. The remainder of the sum was for the expenses of the Government, about 20,000 *l.*; church establishment, about 23,000 *l.*; civil establishment for magistrates and the administration of justice, about 30,000 *l.*; gaols, 5,000 *l.*; police, 24,000 *l.*; schools, 4,000 *l.*; sundry other expenses, about 42,000 *l.* Now, all those are objects in the benefit of which the negroes participate as fully as any other part of the community; and as the taxation is direct upon one class of the community, in the shape of a tax upon exports, I do not see why it should not be direct upon another class.

2614. Supposing a direct taxation were imposed in the nature of a rate upon the holdings and habitations of the negroes, do you think in point of fact that would fall upon the employer, or upon the employed?—I think ultimately it would fall upon the proprietors of estates, unless the supply of labour was increased, but in the existing state of things it would fall upon the proprietors of estates.

2615. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you not conceive the negroes to be deeply interested in maintaining the existing cultivation of sugar?—No doubt of it; I think their whole future prospects of civilisation and advancement in society depend upon the continued export of sugar from the British Colonies.

2616. If it should become impossible for the proprietors to continue the cultivation of the colony, would it not probably relapse into a state of complete barbarism?—I think there can be no doubt that as the falling off in the quantity of exported produce increases, the grants for the purposes of education and for religious purposes must decrease, and therefore the negroes will retrogade in civilisation in proportion as the exportable produce falls off.

2617. The negro therefore is interested in common with the white inhabitants in the purposes for which the whole of the public expenditure of the colony is now incurred, and not only that part of it which you mentioned just now?—I think he is, but as there might be some question as regarded immigration, which many people do not see in that light, I excepted it; but as regards my own opinion, I think the negroes will benefit as much by the extension of population as the proprietors of the estates there. No country can exist in a prosperous state without a certain labouring population. If the negroes are not willing to form that labouring population, it is for their advantage that others should be brought in.

2618. Do not you conceive that the present plan of levying a part of the sums required for the public service by a tax upon exports is extremely impolitic, with reference to the interests of the colony?—I think it is; it is a remnant of the old state of things under slavery, which must shortly be done away. Whether the taxation is thrown directly or indirectly upon the negro, I think it must be thrown upon the community at large, and not upon the producers of the only exportable article that is raised in the colony.

2619. Are you not of opinion that it would have greatly tended to the successful working of the change which is taking place in society in British Guiana, if the financial system had been revised at the time that the Abolition Act was passed?—I think it ought, perhaps, to have been done at the time the Abolition Act was passed when the expenditure was only 57,000 *l.* per annum, but it certainly ought to have been so before the remaining two years of the apprenticeship were taken away; but that was done so suddenly, that neither the Government here nor the Government there had an opportunity of doing it. That hasty measure was forced upon the planters out there, partly from an original defect in the Abolition Act; for I think that part of the Abolition Act which set at liberty a certain portion of the labourers upon the 1st of August 1838 would have led to

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great discontent and disturbances; and partly from the discussions in the British Parliament, which rendered it necessary, for the safety of the whites, that the negroes should be set at liberty. They believed, the measure having once been carried in the House of Commons, that it was the law, and therefore they would have attempted to have taken it.

2620. The distinction you allude to, between prædial and non-prædial labourers, by which the one class were to be emancipated before the others, would, in your opinion, have rendered it impossible to hold the others in apprenticeship after the one class had been emancipated?—I think it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible; I think the establishment of a different practice with regard to two classes, which did not in reality exist distinct in the colony, would have had a very bad effect. I have often talked to the negroes upon the subject, and they have said they could see no reason why the non-prædial labourers should have been set at liberty sooner than themselves; and one man put this case to me: that he himself had been working upon the estate for many years; that he had always held high situations upon it; and he could not see why his son, who by some accident, in consequence of an injury, had been set to work in making casks, should be set at liberty sooner than himself on that account.

2621. With reference to the advantage which would have arisen from a revision of the financial system in the year 1833, do you think that at that time there would have been any difficulty, if it had been part of the measure of abolition, in inducing the negroes to submit to a rate of payment upon houses and lands?—I think they would have submitted to anything at that time. They were so much in the hands of the Government, that anything that came recommended from the British nation would have been carried without the slightest difficulty. They had no notion of the rights to which they would succeed as freemen; they were willing to take any version of those rights which was put before them by the British public. They would not take it from their masters, but from the Government they would.

2622. At that time, an opportunity was lost of making a comprehensive settlement of those subjects, which it is very difficult now to recover?—I am afraid that it was.

2623. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley*.] Do you think that the negro population are now sufficiently aware that their interests are so identified with those of the whites, that the ruin of the one would eventually be the misery of the other?—I do not think they are sufficiently advanced in civilisation to see that. On the estate I mentioned as having been visited by a gentleman who recently went out there, he called up the negroes, and told them that some reduction in the extra allowances must be made, for that the price of sugar was not half what it had been in the former year in this country; and he put it to them in every way that he could, and made a long speech to them, and tried to make it as clear to their capacities as possible, but their only answer was, that they did not see why they were to get less wages; that it was the fault of the people in England, who did not keep up the price of sugar; and they suggested that the price of sugar ought to be raised in England. They will learn in time; but I am afraid that the colony will be ruined before they arrive at a perfect knowledge of it.

2624. You think they will arrive at that knowledge too late to make it effectual?—I am afraid so; I do not think that they see that their interests and those of the proprietors are at all identified, but quite the reverse.

2625. *Chairman*.] You stated that you visited various parts of the West Indies in 1839 and 1840; were you in any of the islands from which the labouring population has emigrated to the other colonies?—Yes, I was in several of them; I was in Barbadoes and I was in Grenada; but I can speak more fully as to Grenada than any other.

2626. How long were you in Grenada?—I visited it twice; I should think I passed three or four months there altogether.

2627. Have you any property in Grenada?—I have; I am part proprietor of three sugar estates there.

2628. Had emigration from Grenada taken place at that time?—Yes, it had to a considerable extent.

2629. What number of labourers had emigrated at that time from Grenada, and where had they gone to?—I should say that 500 or 600 at that time had gone to Trinidad.

2630. Have you received any account from Grenada since you were there, that emigration

emigration has continued?—It has increased to a great extent; I should think it has extended to at least 3,000 at present.

2631. Is that estimate of 3,000 founded upon distinct accounts you have received?—It is founded upon a statement to that effect; they are constantly going and coming. Unless you were to take a census at any one period, you could not tell; they go and return.

2632. What was the inducement to those labourers to emigrate from Grenada?—The principal inducement was an offer of much higher wages in Trinidad than the fertility of the soil in Grenada would enable the planters to give them.

2633. Is Grenada a fertile soil?—It is comparatively a fertile island.

2634. What are the staple productions of Grenada?—Sugar is the principal staple production. There is a little cotton grown in some of the tributary islands, the Grenadines, and there is cocoa to a considerable extent.

2635. What is the extent of your property in Grenada?—There are three properties in which I am interested in Grenada; the extent of one of them is about 1,800 acres of land; the other two, though more considerable properties as to the production of sugar, are less in extent.

2636. What is the population of Grenada?—I think the black population is about 24,000; but without referring to documents I cannot say exactly. I did not know that I should be examined about Grenada to-day.

2637. What is the extent of the island in point of acres?—That is a question to which I cannot speak exactly; but not one-half of it is under cultivation; I should think it is about 100,000 acres.

2638. Is the whole island fit for cultivation?—Part of it is very mountainous and steep, but there are very few parts that might not be cultivated with cocoa; almost the whole of it is fit for cultivation.

2639. Why is it not cultivated?—The planters never had a sufficient supply of labour to enable them to extend the cultivation to the whole island.

2640. Has the supply of labour been sufficient for the part which has been cultivated?—Not nearly; the production of the colony has fallen off to a very great extent.

2641. What has been the effect of the abstraction of labourers in consequence of the emigration you have adverted to, upon the remainder of the population in Grenada?—I think it has been more adverse even to the interests of the proprietors than would be attributable to the mere extent of the emigration; those that remained were so unsettled by their friends and relations passing to and from Trinidad, that they afforded very little labour. They considered themselves ill used by the rate of wages they got, and many of them went to Trinidad at length dissatisfied and discontented.

2642. Did you lose any labourers from your own estates?—From one estate, the last to which I referred, called Mount Parnassus, which is close to the principal town; I lost a great many from the circumstance of the vessels from Trinidad anchoring close by. From the other estate I believe, as yet, I have lost none.

2643. Did the rate of wages throughout the island rise in consequence of the emigration that took place?—Yes, it has risen since the commencement; they began at about the same scale as in St. Vincent's, and it has risen considerably; it is one-fourth higher; it is fully 1 *s.* sterling a day, in many cases 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

2644. Do you attribute that exclusively to the emigration?—Yes.

2645. Do you not know of any other causes which have contributed to cause that rise in wages?— I know of no other. I do not think the competition for labour has been carried to anything like the extent there that it has in soils more fertile.

2646. What is now the rate of wages in Grenada for able-bodied labourers?—About 1 *s.* sterling.

2647. Is that per day or by task?—It is, generally speaking, by task; but that is a matter that varies more in the smaller islands than in Demerara.

2648. Is the system with regard to the occupation of houses and land the same in Grenada as in the other colonies?—It is; in some instances, I believe, a rent system has been adopted, but not upon my property.

2649. Has that rent been paid for the houses, or is it in consideration of occupying a specified quantity of land?—It has been paid for a house and for the right of cultivating ground. It is not for any particular defined quantity, but for the power which each effective labourer possesses of cultivating as much of the mountain land attached to the estate as he chooses.

2650. By whom is that power to cultivate mountain land given, is it Crown land,

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land, or is it belonging to the proprietor?—Generally during the system of slavery, each estate had a certain run of mountain land, in order to enable the negroes to support themselves, without putting the proprietor to the expense of importing provisions for them. That still continues to be the property of the owner of the estate, and it is cultivated by the negroes.

2651. What portion of land is usually given to the negroes under that system?—It varies very much. There is a certain run of land; there may be 200 acres, and there may be as many negroes upon the estate. Those who are most industrious, I have known have as many as eight or ten acres without paying for it any rent; and others, who merely wished to supply their own consumption of provisions, may have a quarter or half an acre.

2652. You have stated that in Grenada the tenancy system has been to a certain extent adopted?—It has.

2653. Has it been adopted upon your own estates?—No; it has been attempted, but I do not think it has been carried fully into effect.

2654. Do you know under what terms those tenancies have been held?—They vary considerably; but I believe, in most cases it has been equivalent to receiving back about a day's labour, or a day and a half's labour, at the end of the week, when the wages were paid, in the shape of rent; I believe it has always been deducted, but it was understood by the negroes to be in the way of rent.

2655. Do you know what extent of land was occupied by the negroes who paid rent?—I believe they were still left with an undefined extent of mountain land, which would leave any man to cultivate what he chose.

2656. Then the rent was for the house, together with an undefined right of cultivating land?—It was not exactly mixed together, because the rent for the house was levied upon the occupier of the house, and the rent for cultivating the land was levied upon every effective labourer who was supposed to have an opportunity of cultivating land if he chose.

2657. Was this rent levied by the proprietor of the land?—It was levied by the proprietor of the land.

2658. Not by the Government?—Not by the Government; the Government have never interfered in any way in the West Indies, so far as I know, to establish, or even to recommend a system of rent.

2659. Can you tell what proportion of the island is cultivated?—I should think about half the island was cultivated.

2660. The other half is considered to be the property of the Crown?—I believe the Crown possesses a very considerable extent; I do not know whether it comprises the whole of the other half; portions of it may be granted to different individuals who have never taken up those grants.

2661. When you talk of these mountain runs, are they considered as a portion of the actual property of the proprietor, or is it a sort of privilege which the proprietor exercises upon lands belonging to the Crown?—No; they were *bonâ fide* property; they were often purchased for the purpose of negro grounds by the proprietors of estates; every proprietor of an estate that did not purchase one of those runs of land during slavery, would be put to great expense in purchasing provisions for his negroes.

2662. Then they were in every instance defined additions to the property of the proprietor?—Yes.

2663. What has been the state of things with regard to the adoption of that system of tenancy; is it a system that has been adopted upon particular properties, and not upon others; or has it been adopted with regard to particular labourers?—It has been adopted upon particular properties; the first attempt made in the Island of Grenada was to charge rent in some shape or another; but every manager of an estate followed out the idea in the way he thought easiest to effect it; some thought they would make an actual deduction from the labourers when they were not working; others thought again, that an independent system of rent would be the best.

2664. Do you know upon what proportion of the properties the system of paying rent is adopted?—I cannot say; when I was there it had succeeded upon very few indeed.

2665. Has it succeeded since?—I doubt whether it is generally established.

2666. You say it was not considered to succeed?—It would have succeeded wherever it could be adopted; but if your neighbours were not willing to join with

with you in carrying it into effect, it was found impossible to persevere in it, and it was given up on that account:

2667. Do you stand in need of the immigration of additional labourers into Grenada, or would the present supply be sufficient?—So long as we cannot keep those that we have, we should never think of attempting to get fresh hands in, because they might be immediately taken away to Trinidad; but that the island would be much better for an increase of population there can be no doubt, and before we knew that emigration would take place to Trinidad, I was one of a party who joined in getting some Maltese to go to our estates there.

2668. What number of Maltese did you introduce?—I could lay full particulars of it before the Committee, but I have not them here; I think there were about 140.

2669. When was that experiment made?—I think the people did not arrive there till the beginning of 1840, but it was in contemplation some time before; and a gentleman went from this country to Malta, and took every pains in selecting the emigrants.

2670. How has the climate agreed with the Maltese emigrants?—It has agreed with them remarkably well, but the experiment has totally failed; and the Maltese, I believe, many of them, have returned. They were found to be not at all used to the cultivation of agricultural products, and people upon whom we could not at all depend. We had very great difficulties indeed with them, and it ended in their almost ceasing to labour, and wandering about the country as vagabonds, their indentures being at their own request cancelled.

2671. Do the same complaints exist in Grenada as in many other colonies, with regard to the work of the negro population having become less continuous than formerly?—Just the same.

2672. Are you aware whether, in consequence of the work being less continuous, and also the fact of emigration having taken place from the island, any estates in Grenada have become less productive the last three years than they were previously?—I believe all the estates have become less productive; my own has become very much less so in proportion, about one-half less; and the whole of the colony, I think, has fallen off in the same ratio, if not more.

2673. Do you attribute the loss of labour principally to emigration, or t the general result of the emancipation of the negroes?—I think that, as a general result of the emancipation of the negroes everywhere, a great quantity of labour must have been expected to be withdrawn from the cultivation of the staples of the island; but it has been aggravated in Grenada by emigration to Trinidad. I do not think we could have expected that the whole population would remain and give their labour to the cultivation of any one article, when they were free to do what they liked. Many of them must have become proprietors, and the women must have withdrawn themselves to a great extent from field labour.

2674. Do you know any instances of negroes having purchased property in Grenada?—I believe they have purchased lots of land, but not upon the same scale as in Demerara; they have also in some instances become tenants of lands. Upon the estate to which I referred before, Mount Parnassus, where there is a considerable run of land not well situated for cultivation by the estate, a great number of free tenants have established themselves. They pay their rent pretty punctually; we receive 200*l.* or 300*l.* a year from them in the shape of rent.

2675. At what sort of rate has land been sold to the negroes?—It depends very much upon the situation of the land. This land is in the neighbourhood of the town, and it would have sold at about 6*l.* or 7*l.* sterling an acre all round; but there is a great deal of land that has been sold at much less than that: I was offered as much as that for it.

2676. Viscount *Howick.*] In cases of land that was let, what was the rent per acre?—I think it was somewhere about 30*s.* an acre that they were paying for this land; it was about 3*l.* currency; that would be less than 30*s.* sterling.

2677. *Chairman.*] Is it rented by individual negroes?—Yes.

2678. What extent of land do they hold?—It varies according to their industry, and to their means, but from two to three acres each.

2679. The quantity being so small, it is chiefly for provisions for their own maintenance?—It was chiefly in the first instance, that they might have a house

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near the principal town. Many of them apply themselves to the cultivation of provisions to a considerable extent. We attempted to induce them to cultivate the sugar cane in 1839, and we succeeded to a trifling extent; but at present there is very little cultivation of sugar by them.

2680. They cultivate provisions partly for their own supply, and partly for sale in the neighbouring market; do they make money in that way?—Yes.

2681. Do those persons, so occupying those small holdings, live upon the profits of their land, or do they labour upon the adjacent estates?—No; some of them will occasionally labour upon the sugar estates in the vicinity, but they do not do it regularly. If they have nothing to do in their own provision grounds, occasionally they will turn their attention to a few days' labour upon a sugar estate in the neighbourhood.

2682. What proportion of the negroes who emigrated from Grenada have returned to the colony?—That is very difficult to state with any certainty. They were often sent back for the purpose of procuring their companions to come over with them.

2683. Are you aware whether any considerable portion of them have latterly returned to Grenada?—A very considerable portion have returned, but I think not any to remain.

2684. You think that those that have returned have done so principally to induce their companions to follow them, or to fetch their families?—Yes.

2685. They have found the emigration to answer for the purposes for which they went?—I do not think they are entirely pleased with it, but still the high wages they receive will always induce them to go back after a little time.

2686. Do you know whether the emigration is still going on?—It was stopped for a time, by the attempt to reduce wages in Trinidad. The planters in Grenada of course made the worst of that, and stated that the reduction was much greater than had been attempted; but it is now going on to a greater extent than ever; to such an extent that the island of Grenada, I think, will cease soon to be a sugar colony.

2687. Can you state any particulars as to the diminution of production in Grenada since the establishment of freedom?—I can state a few details. My own estate diminished from about 400 hogsheads to about 180 hogsheads; this year it has been even less. It was 100 hogsheads the first year after the introduction of freedom; it is now rather increasing again.

2688. Do you suppose that that would be a fair criterion of the reduction in the rent of the island?—I think it is; I think the production of the island has fallen as low as about 5,000 hogsheads, and it used to be 11,000 or 12,000 in slavery.

2689. Has the condition of the negroes much improved since the commencement of freedom?—It is very much improved; they have made great progress in education and civilisation; they are much better off than they were before.

2690. Are the means of education and religious instruction abundant?—I think they are not sufficiently abundant. There has been considerable difficulty in the way of education, from the circumstance that almost all the people being Roman-catholics, the priests objected to their receiving education in the colonial schools, and in private schools, unless they had the superintendence of it; but latterly, the Mico Society have assisted to a great extent, and have formed new schools on the principle of those established by Government in Ireland.

2691. Do you know why it is that emigration has taken place to so large an extent from Grenada, while it has not done so from St. Vincent's, which is about the same distance from Trinidad, and where the rate of wages was about the same?—It appeared, on first consideration, almost inexplicable, why the people of St. Vincent's, who were receiving lower wages, should not emigrate, as those from Grenada have done; but I think it is principally to be attributed to the similarity of religion between Trinidad and Grenada. In Trinidad the Roman-catholic religion is carried on with great pomp and splendour, having a cathedral and bishops; and I should say it is carried even to a greater extent than it is in the old countries of Europe, and that has great attraction for the negroes; and I think likewise that the Trinidad people were unfortunate in the death of most of the people that went over from St. Vincent's in the first instance; the climate did not suit them.

2692. Does the Roman-catholic religion prevail in Grenada?—They are almost

almost all Roman-catholics; and French in their language and ideas, most of them.

2693. Viscount *Howick*.] Is the English language gaining ground among them?—I think it is; but there are many that do not comprehend English, if it is at all quickly spoken to them. The managers of the estates are in the habit of speaking a kind of jargon which no one else can understand, and which the negroes can understand and reply in.

2694. In the schools, are they taught English?—They are; and I have no doubt the rising generation will speak English correctly, but I do not think the present generation will ever acquire it; they speak a dreadful kind of patois.

2695. There is no good French spoken?—No; they can understand good French, and I was often obliged to speak it to make myself understood. They listen if you talk English, but they do not comprehend it frequently.

2696. You have said that in Demerara the properties that were doing best were those in the hands of resident proprietors. Have you observed any similar distinction in Grenada?—No, I do not think I have, to the same extent. I have a letter from the principal resident proprietor in the island, from which he seems to have suffered as much, or even more, than the absentee proprietors. I think the circumstances which rendered the residence of proprietors in Demerara almost necessary, have not rendered it so in Grenada; they have been able to get on well without them: the change was not so sudden and violent in its effects in Grenada.

2697. You have spoken of considerable rents being paid for land, and also of high prices in some instances; does that apply entirely to land having a very favourable situation?—The high price applies to favourably situated land.

2698. Land near a market?—Land near a market.

2699. Fertile land at some distance from the town is to be obtained by negroes at a very low rate?—Yes; none of the Crown lands are, in any of the colonies, allowed by Lord Glenelg's instructions to be put up at less than 1 *l.* sterling an acre; but I should think there are lands in the hands of private individuals to be sold at less than that.

2700. There has been much more land granted to private individuals than they can occupy, and what they do not want may be obtained by the negroes at a low rate?—Yes; at the same time, they do not so rapidly obtain means of making a purchase as they do when the rate of wages is higher, and the purchases of land have not gone on to the same extent as in other colonies where the wages are higher.

2701. Does the cultivation of cocoa require continuous labour to the same degree that sugar cultivatian does?—I think not nearly to the same extent. It is a crop that requires the application of labour five or six times a year, for the purpose of weeding and of gathering the cocoa, but not constant labour.

2702. But in the cultivation of cocoa, the interruption of labour for a few days is not attended with the same ruinous effects as in the case of sugar?—No; in dry weather, when the weeds are not growing fast, I should think it might be very much left to itself.

2703. In Grenada the negroes are maintained chiefly by provisions raised on their grounds?—Yes; and they also raise a great quantity for export. At present the export of provisions to Trinidad is as great as of labourers.

2704. Is that trade chiefly in the hands of the negroes?—I should think entirely in the hands of the negroes; it is probably carried on through coloured merchants in the town.

2705. But the supply is raised entirely by negroes on their own patches of land, not by the white proprietors?—Entirely by negroes.

2706. What is the average length of passage between Grenada and Trinidad?—About 15 or 20 hours; I myself came over from Trinidad to Grenada in about 15 hours; it may sometimes occupy more; in a day you may easily do it.

2707. Either way?—Yes, either way.

2708. The prevailing winds are equally favourable for the passage either way?—Yes; Trinidad is so situated with reference to Grenada, that the wind does not much interfere.

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2709. And there is constant communication between the two islands?—There is now constant communication by vessels of 40 to 50 tons.

2710. Has there been a great increase in the number of those vessels in those islands?—There has, though there have always been a great many in Trinidad, from the facility which the Gulf of Paria, a beautiful sheet of water inclosed with high lands, presents for water communication; but such boats were used in all the islands for carrying produce from the small bays and the different estates to the principal bay where the ships are lying.

2711. Is there a small class of vessels that is used in the communication between the two islands?—Yes, vessels of from 20 to 50 tons.

2712. Where are those vessels principally built?—Some are built in the colony; but generally they are built of Bermuda cedar. Some are built in this country; when they were used by the merchants, they were generally built in the river, and sent out there.

2713. Mr. *Barclay.*] Can you say what is the proportion of land in the island that is out of actual cultivation?—I should think the actual cultivation is very small indeed; the quantity of land that would require to be kept in cultivation to produce 5,000 hogsheads of sugar would be very small. But on a sugar estate cultivated on the system of the islands there is a kind of rotation of crops upon the land; canes have to be planted continually, which is not the case in British Guiana, and therefore a larger surface of land is necessary than is required in a country like British Guiana.

2714. Can you give any idea of the quantity of land fit for cultivation which is now uncultivated?—I should think the greater part of the island was fit for cultivation, either in sugar or cocoa; there may be 20,000 or 30,000 acres that might be actually put in canes, if there was labour.

2715. That would be as much fit for it as some which are now in cultivation?—Yes; some much more, because the application of labour formerly depended upon a proprietor's having a great number of slaves, which he kept upon the land that he had whether it was good or bad.

2716. Is there any considerable extent of land which having been once cultivated is now abandoned?—Yes; no doubt the reduction in the quantity of sugar produced has arisen from a great quantity of land being thrown out of cultivation.

2717. Do you consider that to be the chief cause of the reduction in the quantity, and not merely from deficient crops?—The weather has been dry; the last two seasons in Grenada have been very dry indeed, and no doubt that has contributed to a certain extent to reduce the crops; but that could not have reduced the crop to the extent to which it has fallen off: and it fell off in the first year, when the weather was favourable.

2718. You are not able to state the precise proportion in which you would state, that the deficiency in the quantity is attributable to the land thrown out of cultivation?—It is evident that in a case where the season has something to do with it, it is impossible for anybody to state the precise extent; but the seasons have been very dry the last two years, and in that case the crops would have been diminished; but there never was so small a crop produced under the old system, so far as my knowledge extends, and therefore a great part of it must have been owing to the deficiency of labour.

2719. With regard to the Maltese, do you think, from the experiments you have made, that there would be any hope of procuring efficient labourers from Malta?—Not if those who have already come are to be taken as a fair sample of the labouring population of Malta. But, I think that, in the first instance, those, in all countries, who are disposed to emigrate, are not the most valuable members of the community. We took a priest and a doctor from Malta with them, and we did all we could for them; but we engaged the first year to support them, and that induced them to neglect making any provision for their own maintenance, and when they found at the end of the year that it was intended to leave them to their own resources, they became very outrageous, and they mutinied, and it was found necessary to give up their indentures.

2720. Are you able to state any particulars as to the expenses of the introduction of those immigrants?—I could not do so, but it was very considerable. I know I contributed as much as 2,000*l.* for my proportion of the expense. It was not an actual loss, because the estate produced a little more, and the effect upon the

negroes

negroes was very beneficial. They have worked better ever since, and the crop has risen from 100 hogsheads to 180.

2721. Do you attribute that to the emulation excited by the appearance of those new labourers?—I do to a certain extent, and especially to the circumstance of their being white men; whom they are not accustomed to see labouring in the field. I think it had a very beneficial effect when they saw that whites would perform labour in the field, and that they could perform it.

2722. *Chairman.*] Have you known any instances of a system of tenancy being adopted in Grenada, called the Metarie system, recommended by Mr. Rose?—I attempted it myself, on Mount Parnassus, to a small extent. I got a few barrels of sugar in the year 1839, and I got a few more last year, I can state the details, but it was to a very inconsiderable extent, and I found it impossible to induce the people to take any interest in it, though I gave them the full value of the produce, more than it would have brought here. I offered them at first half the value of the produce, but when they brought it to the mill they were not content with that, and the manager paid them the full value for it.

2723. To what do you attribute that indifference; do you think it is because they think that they can make a greater amount of money in another manner, or are they indifferent to obtaining the means of enabling them to live comfortably?—I think it is because they can make more money in another way with less trouble; but I think there is also a little prejudice against the cultivation of cane, and they are very averse to enter into any new bargain, of which they do not see the full scope and effect: they will not look forward a year for remuneration.

2724. Is the sugar in Grenada made entirely from fresh plants, or is the land rich enough to bear ratooning again?—In some places it will go six or seven years, but in general two years is the extent of it; it will do for two years with common care and manuring, which is carried to a great extent.

2725. What is the produce of an acre of canes?—An acre of canes of plants will yield from two to three hogsheads of sugar. The ratoons the first year would make about a hogshead of sugar; and the second year they would yield that again, or perhaps they would yield rather less. I might state, with reference to the depreciation of property caused by emigration from the colony, that I have sent out instructions with reference to this estate, Mount Parnassus, which was purchased at 15,000*l.*, and which produced 1,000*l.* a year for many years during slavery; I have sent out instructions to let it for 200 *l.* sterling a year, which was offered for it; and I believe several instances of the same kind have occurred in which properties have been let.

2726. Do you know any instances of estates in Grenada having been abandoned and thrown out of cultivation?—No, I cannot say that I do know any that have been actually thrown out of cultivation; but I know many where the crop has been so much reduced as to be nearly equivalent to it.

2727. Is machinery used extensively in Grenada?—It was used to a slight extent; the principal part of the mills are turned by water. There are abundance of streams in the island. I introduced a good many improvements from Demerara on my own estate; and I believe that lately a great many have been introduced, such as the megass-carriers, and improvements of that kind; but they are not so advantageous in this island, from the nature of the ground, and from many causes, as they are in Demerara.

2728. Is the plough used there?—It is used to a great extent in Grenada; I have seen ploughing matches there, at which they have ploughed in a way that would not disgrace men in this country.

2729. How long has it been introduced there?—I believe the plough has been attempted in Grenada, and in most of the West India Islands, for the last 30 years, but it has never been used to any great extent till the last three or four years. As regards the Metarie system, I wrote, when Mr. Rose's book came out, to a gentleman there; and he since informed me that he tried it a few years ago, but he found it impossible to induce the negroes to carry it out, and he is certain that it cannot be effected; he says his estates are yielding him nothing, and that he would be willing to give his attention to any system that might be suggested, but that he was convinced he could do nothing on this system.

Lunæ, 30° *die Maii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Howard.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Godson.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR

GRENADA.

Henry Barkly, Esq.

30 May 1842.

Henry Barkly, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

2730. *Chairman.*] ARE you desirous of offering to the Committee any statement in explanation of the evidence which you gave on a former day relating to the colony of Grenada?—I have prepared two statements, one with regard to the Maltese emigrants about whom I was asked several questions which I was not prepared to answer quite accurately at the moment, and the other as regards the cost of production on the principal estate of which I spoke to the Committee.

2730.* Will you hand them in?——

[*The same were delivered in, and are as follows*:]

(A.)

STATEMENT respecting MALTESE LABOURERS Imported into *Grenada*.

IN October 1839, Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co., Messrs. Davidsons, Barkly & Co. and H. E. Sharpe, Esq., proprietors and representatives of proprietors of estates in the island of Grenada, by a special agent, Mr. H. W. Blake, accompanied by Mr. Sharpe in person, who went to Malta expressly for that purpose, engaged a certain number of emigrants, on the terms stated in a contract deposited in court at Malta; notarial copies in Italian and a translation into English being sent out to the agents of the parties in Grenada.

The engagement was, that the wages to be paid the labourers from the period of commencing work should be as follows; viz.

		s.	d.	
To the 1st class, men	$4 =	16	8	sterling per month each.
— women	$3 =	12	6	ditto.
2d class	$2 =	8	4	ditto.
3d class	$1 =	4	2	ditto.

which was to be given only to those who worked the stipulated time, which was nine hours per day, clear, during five days of the week (excepting Christmas-day and some other holidays). The Saturday was to be occupied in cultivating the land to be allotted them, which should be ample, and of good quality.

A comfortable cottage was to be provided for each family, and the unmarried people were also to be well housed.

Medical attendance and medicines were to be furnished to the sick, and certain stipulated articles of clothing were to be supplied to them during four years.

They were also to be supplied with food for 12 months after their arrival in Grenada, to afford them time to establish their gardens, and to accumulate a stock of provisions.

The period of service was to be five years.

The Ellen, Captain Brown, of 301 tons, was accordingly engaged in London, and proceeded to Malta, whence she sailed to Grenada at the end of October, with 164 Maltese on board, men, women, and children, equivalent, with reference to the Ordinance of the Maltese Government in relation to emigrant passengers, to 140 adults, accompanied by a Roman-catholic priest, to whom a liberal stipend was secured, an interpreter, and a medical man; the latter, assistant-surgeon in the Civil Hospital at Malta.

The Ellen reached Grenada on the 31st December 1839, and the Maltese were all landed "in high health and spirits." Not one had been ill during the voyage of nine weeks, though the passage had been rough and stormy; and the people testified their gratitude for the attention shown them, by addressing a letter to Captain Brown, thanking him for his kindness.

On arrival they were located on the respective estates for which they had been engaged, where they found houses of a superior description ready for their reception, the same having been previously prepared under instructions from the proprietors, and a suitable quantity of land was allotted to them.

The

The settlements were,

42 People on Sagesse Estate, belonging to Messrs. Hankey & Co.
22 People on Crochu Estate - - - - ditto
54 People on Bacolet Estate, belonging to Messrs. Davidsons, Barkly & Co.
46 People on Corinth Estate, belonging to H. E. Sharpe, Esq.

the greatest distance between them being about eight miles, whilst the locations had all been carefully chosen, under the advice of resident planters and medical gentlemen.

The priest was lodged in a situation centrical, with regard to the properties to which the emigrants were assigned, and a temporary chapel was immediately prepared for service.

The doctor who accompanied the expedition, remained upwards of three months and a half with the immigrants, and on his leaving, an experienced medical gentleman, many years in the island, and residing nearest to the settlement, was engaged, who was constant in his attention to them, and who possessed their confidence.

The emigrants were at first employed in cultivating their own gardens, and particular care was taken not to require arduous labour from them until they were accustomed to the climate, which, it may be right to remark, was reported by the medical man who accompanied them, to be particularly adapted to their constitutions.

In due time they were set to light work, which they performed satisfactorily, and appeared contented and happy; many prepared land, which they sowed with seeds brought from Malta, but, unfortunately, the season was ill chosen, of which they were expressly forewarned, and the seeds not of a class which thrive in the island, the crops consequently failed; afterwards, however, they followed the advice given to them, and obtained crops of Indian corn, plantains, yams, &c., productions of a farinaceous kind, easily reared from the soil and climate of the country.

The terms of the contract were faithfully fulfilled on the part of the agents of the proprietors, but from a grasping and avaricious disposition on the part of the Maltese, who also seem to have been influenced by bad advice, they soon became discontented, making demands for increased rations which they stated had been promised them, although the decisions of the stipendiary magistrates testified that their charges were entirely unfounded, and the people on these occasions themselves confessed that they had no complaint of a breach of contract, nor any specific grievance to bring forward. The sufficiency of the food required to be given under the contract was testified by the sanction of the medical man, their priest, and the magistrate of the district, and was confirmed by the fact that a great part of the food given was sold every market day; notwithstanding this, however, the people continued to make their unreasonable demands, gave a great deal of trouble, often absented themselves from work, and from want of proper attention to cleanliness in their persons and houses, suffered a good deal from chigoes, which, from neglect on their part, caused sores, notwithstanding all the care and vigilance of the medical man, and the negro nurses appointed to attend to them.

Matters proceeded in this manner, the people generally working unsteadily until the commencement of the year 1841, when, agreeably to the contract, the allowance of rations was to be discontinued; and having neglected to prepare sufficient provision grounds, the Maltese then refused to work. With the approbation of the special justice they were offered, for six months longer, a moiety of the previous allowance of provisions, with the stipulated amount of wages, if they would return to work and cultivate their grounds; but, contrary to the earnest persuasions of the magistrates, they refused all the overtures made to them.

Under these circumstances it was deemed expedient to lodge a complaint against some of them, and a few of the most unruly were sentenced to imprisonment; but these were rescued from the custody of the police by their countrymen, and an application to the president of the council, administering the government, for sufficient aid to coerce them, was not successful, on the ground, it was alleged, of some informalities in the indentures.

In February 1841 several of the people were sentenced to confinement in gaol, and on this occasion they went without opposition; those, however, who were left behind became abusive, and stated that they all wished to be confined in gaol, and to be fed without working.

In consequence of this, as it had been found that the Maltese would not work agreeably to their contract, after every indulgence had been shown to them, and as they had neglected to cultivate their provision grounds; had become extremely refractory, many of them wandering about the island and committing acts of depredation; and as, moreover, the authorities, whether from the insufficiency of the laws, or from want of adequate civil force, were unable, or perhaps unwilling, to enforce the terms of the contract as against the emigrants, it was deemed most advisable, for the welfare of the community, to cancel the indentures, which was most reluctantly assented to by the gentlemen interested in their services, who had incurred a very serious expense in undertaking the expedition, as is shown in the accompanying statement, and the people afterwards embarked in a vessel for America.

	£.	s.	d.
The expenses incurred in the Maltese expedition, for hire of the vessel, provisions, fittings, clothing, agency, &c. &c., were - - - -	2,387	–	–
Estimated expense of habitations for $\frac{140}{164}$ people, say 10*l.* each - -	1,400	–	–
(The cottages on Sagesse cost 58*l.* each. Complete returns from the other estates have not been received.)			
Carried forward - - - £.	3,787	–	–

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	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Brought forward - - - - - - -		3,787 – –
For the first six months the expense for the 42 people located on Sagesse (independent of the charge for the priest), amounted to - - - - - - - - -	328 7 8	
The work performed by them would have cost, if by black labourers - - - - - - - - - - -	73 17 3	
Difference against the Estate - - -	£. 254 10 5	
Supposing the other locations will give the same result, and assuming the same rate for the latter six months of 1840, the loss to the proprietors by the employment of the Maltese for one year, may be estimated at - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -		1,672 11 4
Or nearly 12 *l.* each per annum, almost as much as the cost in wages and allowances of a negro labourer employed constantly during the year (as the Maltese), five days per week.		
First years' outlay, without any return; the value of the houses only to be set against it - - - - - - - £.		5,460 – –

(B.)

STATEMENT relative to the BACOLET ESTATES.

Digest, No. 1.—VALUE OF PROPERTY.

Estimated Value in 1831.	EXTENT OF FREEHOLD.	Number of Slaves in 1834.	Valuation of Slaves for Compensation.	Compensation awarded.	Average Income for 7 Years, to 31 Dec. 1838.	Income, 1839.	Deficit, 1840.	Income, 1841.
£.	Acres. Under Crop for 1831.		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
50,000	1,242 - - 430 acres.	360	32,415	11,151	3,800	3,030	310	400
	Cattle Farm, attached on Isle Rhonde, 582 acres - - 60 acres in cotton.	Isle Rhonde - 60 420						

Digest, No. 2.—COMPARATIVE COST OF PRODUCTION.

——	YEARS.	Casks.	Cwts.	Cost of Production.	Interest on Capital, 6 per Cent. on £. 50,000.	Price at which Sugar was grown, exclusive of Charges in Great Britain.
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Average Crop, three years slavery - - - - -	1831, 1832, 1833	444	5,962	7 2	10 1	17 3
Year of transition - - - - -	1834	429	—	—	—	—
Average Crop, three years of apprenticeship - - -	1835, 1836, 1837	334	4,552	8 4	Interest on Capital less Compensation. 10 3	18 7
Year of transition - - - - -	1838	326	—	—	—	—
Average Crop, three years freedom - - - -	1839, 1840, 1841	185	2,537	22 10	18 5	41 3

Digest, No. 3.—COST OF LABOUR.

YEARS.	Money Wages.	Allowances to Labourers in Colony.	Total Cost of Labour.
	£.	£.	£.
Five months of 1838 - - - - - - - - - -	337	- - -	337
1839 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,142	208	1,350
1840 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,332	361	1,693
1841 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,230	340	1,570
TOTAL Cost of Labour - - - £.	4,041	909	4,950

Note.—It will be seen that the amount of wages expended in three years and five months, viz. 4,950 *l.*, is nearly half the amount of compensation awarded.

Digest, No. 4.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Negro Labour, Cultivation, and Crop.

	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.
Labourers on sugar estate, exclusive of those on cattle farm.	287	139	127	142 on estate, 115 working.	139 on estate, 107 working.
Cultivation on 1 January	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	Plants - - - 76	Plants - - - 80	Plants - - - 28	Plants - - - 49	Plants - - - 45
	1st ratoons - - 79	1st ratoons - - 76	1st ratoons - - 64	1st ratoons - - 28	1st ratoons - - 49
	2d ditto - - 79 3/4	2d ditto - - 66 1/2	2d ditto - - - 56	2d ditto - - - 43	2d ditto - - - 28
	3d ditto - - 84 1/2	3d ditto - - 91 1/4	3d ditto - - - 55	3d ditto - - - 60	3d ditto - - - 70
	Total - - 319 1/4	Total - - 313 3/4	Total - - 203	Total - - 180	Total - - 192
Crop made - - -	326 casks.	250 casks.	111 casks.	194 casks.	

ANTIGUA.

Nicholas Nugent, Esq. M.D.

Nicholas Nugent, Esq. M. D. called in; and Examined.

2731. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the colony of Antigua?—I am.

2732. For what length of time did you reside there, and when did you leave the colony?—I am a native of the island of Antigua; I left it at four years of age, and did not return to it till the year 1808; I remained there till 1810; and I subsequently returned to the island in 1814; and with an interval of about 15 months, I continued to reside consecutively in the island from 1814 till June 1839.

2733. Have you been there since 1839?—No.

2734. What was your profession or occupation when you were resident in the island?—I was educated as a physician, but I never at any period of my life practised in the profession; but during my residence in Antigua I held several honorary appointments; for instance, I was Speaker of the House of Assembly for 23 years; I was also Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court; and I held at different times other situations.

2735. Are you a proprietor of any estates in Antigua?—Yes, I am.

2736. Have you had in part, or altogether, the management of those estates?—Yes, I managed my own property; and I superintended very closely the management of the estates of absent friends, particularly the estate of the Lyons family, the family of Sir Edmund Lyons, the Minister in Greece; and I resided upon that estate.

2737. At what distance from your own estate?—About two miles and a half.

2738. So as to enable you to carry on the management of the two at the same time?—Yes, I had managers under me; but I very closely directed all the details of each.

2739. What are the principal products of Antigua?—Sugar, rum, and molasses, are the exportable productions.

2740. What is the extent of the island of Antigua?—I think it is very generally estimated at about 20 miles long, and 20 broad; it is almost circular, but the coast is exceedingly indented by bays and inlets of the sea.

2741. Is it a flat, or a mountainous island?—It is scarcely either the one or the other; there are many parts which are level.

2742. Is the whole of it available for cultivation?—For some sort of cultivation; it is not exactly all available for sugar cultivation; I should say two-thirds of the island were occupied by sugar plantations, and the rest probably in pasture or copse; very little native forest remains. We have a good deal in that country of what we call downs in England, short herbage.

2743. What is the population of the island?—I think the aggregate population, including the garrison for the time being, and transient persons, seamen, and so on, may be rated at 40,000.

2744. How many of that number constituted the slave population before emancipation?—I should say about 29,500.

2745. Has the population increased or decreased since emancipation?—We have had no census to assure us of the fact since the year 1823, which was prior to the emancipation; but I should say that many circumstances indicate that there is a progressive increase in the population.

2746. Have you any law or ordinance in Antigua for the regulation of labour?—Yes, we have.

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2747. What is it?—We have an Act to regulate the different relations between the master or employer, and the farm servant or servant of husbandry.

2748. Is it a local Act?—It is.

2749. Is it found to be satisfactory and sufficient?—Yes, I think I may say that it has been very tolerably satisfactory; it is now working better than ever it did.

2750. Have you any law or ordinance for the regulation of contracts as to the renting of houses or lands by labourers?—No, there is no rent taken as between employer and employed in Antigua.

2751. What is the system in Antigua with regard to the occupation of houses and grounds by the labourers?—They have a dwelling and ground in part payment of wages. There is no rent taken, but a dwelling is assigned as part and parcel of the wages of a servant in husbandry.

2752. How much land do the labourers usually occupy upon those terms?—They have only a small plot of ground assigned to them in aid of their weekly wages; I should say, in general, a very small quantity in Antigua; a small space, possibly not more than 50 or 60 feet square; but that is in the body of the island generally. In the mountainous districts the grounds assigned to the labourers are very considerable and very productive; the fruit of the country grows principally in that quarter, and gives a very considerable return to the labourers who occupy it.

2753. What is the system with regard to the labourers that are working upon the sugar estates; are the Committee to understand that labourers working upon a sugar estate have only sufficient land, and barely sufficient to provide them with provisions?—The plantation labourer in Antigua is put upon the condition of a farm servant, a servant in husbandry in England; he has no particular right as regards the occupancy of any house, but a lodging is assigned to him as part of his weekly payment; he dwells in this house; he also gets a small plot of ground, which he applies to his own exclusive purposes; and he has the expense of medical attendance defrayed for himself and family; beyond that, he receives money wages: this constitutes the relation, in that respect, between the master and the farm servant.

2754. In the event of a labourer discontinuing his work as a labourer upon the estate is it the practice in Antigua to turn him out of the premises which he occupies?—By no means to turn him out; he holds those advantages as part payment of his wages, the contract ceases when he wishes to withdraw, or the master wishes that he should be discharged, for which there is always notice of a month between master and servant, as in England. We contemplate under our local law a general hiring which is supposed to be for a year as in England, but this contract is voidable by either party on a notice of 30 days, just as you would part with a domestic servant in England.

2755. Do you find practically that that implied contract is adhered to by the labouring population?—Yes, I think I may say it is very fairly.

2756. Are there any grounds of complaint in the Island of Antigua, with regard to labour having become of late years less continuous than formerly?—No, quite the reverse; at first, after the free system, those contracts were frequently violated, but latterly there has been less complaint on either side, and things have gone on more smoothly in that respect.

2757. What is the usual rate of wages which you give to a plantation labourer?—We give at present 9*d.* sterling a day to what we call the great gang, the adult labourers, and 6*d.* sterling a day to the second class, to the weeding gang, those who are not adults, who are either persons infirm in body or merely boys and girls, juvenile labourers.

2758. Have you only those two classes of labourers?—No, we have a number of persons employed in the condition of farm servants besides those; as the manufacturing system is connected with the agricultural, of course we have other persons, boilers, and distillers, and carters, and so on.

2759. Do the women work?—The adult women work, and are considered equally efficient with the male labourers.

2760. You have stated that you give 9*d.* a day; do your plantation labourers work by the day or by the task?—By the day, as farm servants do in England; there is no distinction; they work as the requirements of the plantation call for them.

2761. You do not employ them by the task?—No; there are in Antigua also other persons who hold their tenements and possessions apart from the plantations;

tions; they hold their cottages as tenants in fee simple, and consequently are not at all under any contract as farm servants, but they are willing to work, not having the means of support by themselves, they are willing to come as occasional labourers or jobbers; so that our labour consists of two classes of persons, those who are resident domiciled farm servants, and the others who occupy their own premises, and merely for the subsistence of their families come to work as occasional labourers.

2762. Do you employ any of your regular labourers on the estate by the task?—We have no job-work, except from the occasional labourers.

2763. What number of the occasional labourers to which you have alluded do you employ upon the estate?—I employ, myself, very few indeed; I am in the habit of using the plough extensively, and I do not require much occasional labour.

2764. At what rate of wages are those occasional labourers employed?—I think they get about 1*s.* sterling a day; sometimes about 1*s.* 1½*d.*

2765. Do they usually work by the day?—No, they rather come by the job; sometimes they come by the day, but they come generally for the job, that is, to perform a specified detail of work, which they get paid for.

2766. In what way is the task arranged?—If it be a case of holeing a 10 acre field, and the resident labourers are otherwise occupied, and you require those occasional additional labourers, you will contract with them at the rate of four dollars an acre to hole the land; that is to say, for a 10 acre field you would pay 40 dollars to those occasional jobbers, or two dollars for what is called cross-holeing, which is much lighter work.

2767. Mr. *Barclay.*] How much is a dollar?—I think it is 4*s.* 4*d.* with us.

2768. Is 4*s.* 4*d.* the value of the dollar in exchange, or the nominal value?—It is the sterling value; the sterling Spanish dollar.

2769. *Chairman.*] Then when those occasional labourers undertake job-work, it is usually on a large scale, and undertaken by so many labourers?—Yes.

2770. How much do you suppose, at that rate, those labourers are enabled to earn for a day's labour?—Twenty-three labourers are supposed to hole an acre in a day, and of course ten acres would occupy ten days. We do not restrict them as to time, but we pay them at the end of the job, and they do it as they like; they undertake the task as a job, and they would distribute those 40 dollars among themselves rateably.

2771. How much would each man earn in a day in performing such a job?—If they worked with great activity, they would earn certainly at least a quarter of a dollar a day, which is 2*s.* 3*d.* currency, 1*s.* 1½*d.* sterling.

2772. What rate of wages do you pay to the labourers who are employed about the buildings in the manufacture of sugar?—The boilers get very much the same as the field labourers; a particular class of persons engaged, such as the mill-feeders, will get, instead of 9*d.*, 1*s.* a day, and the firemen will get 1*s.* a day.

2773. How many hours' work is required from the labourers for the wages which you have described?—It is, for a day's labour, from sunrise to sunset, with the exception of half an hour for breakfast, and two hours from twelve to two, to themselves. There are nine hours of work on the average of the year.

2774. Was that the amount of daily work which you exacted from the labourers when they were in a state of slavery?—Just the same.

2775. Are you still able to obtain from them the same number of hours' work now that they are emancipated?—Undoubtedly; or, if they do not choose to work, of course there would be a check, as it is called, an abatement for the time they absented themselves.

2776. Of what nature is the check?—It often happens that the labourer will not work in the morning beyond 12 o'clock, or he may wish to go out in the afternoon to a funeral or something else, then he is not paid for the afternoon, he receives only half a day's payment.

2777. Is your practice which you have described, the general one throughout Antigua, with regard to the payment of labourers?—Yes, I think I may say that it is.

2778. How many labourers had you at work upon your estate during the time of slavery?—On my own estate in time of slavery, our numbers were 171 of all ages and sorts of people.

2779. What is the extent of the estate?—My own estate is 314 acres.

2780. What number of labourers have you had at work upon your estate since

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the commencement of freedom?—I do not think at any time in Antigua, during the period of slavery, you would make available at any one time for the purposes of labour, more than one half of the numerical strength attached to the property; 171 slaves would not give you 171 labourers; I do not think we ever could have estimated our quantity of labour at more than half the aggregate population on the property.

2781. When you say that you would deduct one half, do you mean on account of old persons who had ceased to work, and children?—The non-effective.

2782. Would the proportion of effective labourers resident upon the estate, as compared with the whole number resident on the estate, remain very much the same now as it was then?—I should say, that I have resident upon my estate, perhaps, two-thirds of the number I had during slavery.

2783. Have the effective labourers upon your estate proportionately diminished?—There has been no diminution in the sugar return of the property.

2784. Is the number of effective labourers resident upon your estate, less than it was during slavery in the proportion of one-third?—Yes, I think it is; I do not employ so many labourers; we were compelled, in the time of slavery, to support and employ people whether their work was profitable or not.

2785. What has been the reason of diminishing the number of labourers that you employ?—The difficulty of maintaining them, and paying their wages. In the slave time there was no doubt a wasteful application of labour, whereas everything now constrains to the simplification of human labour.

2786. Is your estate as fully cultivated now as it was during slavery?—I think it is, except in one respect, that we do not now grow the quantity of provisions that we did formerly; our fallow lands are not laid out in provisions so much as they used to be, but in point of cultivation of sugar, which is the staple, it is the same. I should say that we have on the estate 60 acres in plant canes, 60 acres in ratoons, and 60 acres in fallow; upon this fallow we formerly cultivated the provisions for the slaves, vegetables, yams, eddoes, potatoes, and so on; that kind of cultivation has ceased; we now confine our production to sugar. We do that for different reasons; one is, that there is said to be a want of labour for that extended system of cultivation, and the labourers are very capricious now about their food, their articles of subsistence. It has so happened that we have grown large quantities of yams, and that we have put them up in stores, and there they rotted, for the people had changed their taste for their food; as slaves, they would have nothing to eat but what was given to them in daily rations; they had no particular choice, unless they exchanged it with others.

2787. Is any difference in your cultivation of provisions caused by the fact that the labourers now grow provisions for themselves, upon their own grounds?—No, I do not think that is the cause; I think they have very much changed their taste; they eat a great quantity of bread now, which they did not do formerly; they are fond, not of growing them themselves, but of eating those articles imported from foreign countries; they eat a great deal more bread than they did as slaves, and they eat rice, and Indian corn-meal imported.

2788. You do not provide them with their maintenance?—No, they provide themselves as they choose.

2789. Have you not converted to any useful purpose the land placed at your disposal by ceasing to cultivate provisions to the extent you used to do?—It forms part of the incoming crop, though I do not raise provisions upon the land it is a naked fallow which I am preparing for the succeeding crop by manuring, or ploughing, or holeing, or in some other way preparing it for the next crop.

2790. Is it not in your power on account of that land being placed at your disposal, to extend your cultivation of sugar upon the estate?—It would not be desirable I think to do so, it might be done, but the provision fallow never interfered with the sugar cultivation; the crop was taken off whatever it was, prior to the planting the cane again.

2791. Is Antigua a fertile colony?—I should say that one-half of the island of Antigua is as fertile as any land upon earth can be, anybody who knows the geological structure of the island would come to that conclusion, two-thirds of the island may be called very fertile; one-half of it certainly is, because it consists of a calcareous formation, which is in geology termed a tertiary formation.

2792. The sugar estates constitute two-thirds of the island?—Yes, but I do not mean to say that all the land upon every one of those estates is laid down in sugar-cane.

cane, because, every plantation requires a certain proportion of the land to be reserved as pasture.

2793. Upon that more fertile portion of the island, how many years will the sugar canes bear ratooning?—We never ratoon beyond twice; that is to say, we have the plant cane first, we have a second crop, or the first ratoon, and we have occasionally a second ratoon, but we never go beyond that, indeed the second ratoon is by no means general, it is particular lands only which ratoon a second time.

2794. What is the reason for not cutting the ratoons oftener than twice, as you have stated that the land is as fertile as any in the world; you are probably aware in some of the other West India colonies the ratoons are cut as many as 20, 30, or 40 years?—Yes; but in Antigua we are exceedingly subject to severe and most protracted droughts, and moisture is necessary to the cultivation of the cane, as well as natural fertility of the soil; the cane loses its vigour the longer it is in the ground, even in the most fertile countries; but with us it loses it to that degree, that unless we have an ample supply of moisture we cannot profitably cultivate it.

2795. Do you resort to manure to any great extent?—To a very great extent; manure is indispensable to us in Antigua.

2796. Is it imported manure which you use?—All kinds of manure; manure made in the country, and manure imported.

2797. Is there any considerable amount of imported manure used?—Yes.

2798. What manure do you import?—I believe every species of manure that has ever been named in England as advisable to be used; some kinds of manure we have been obliged to prevent the importation of, from the very serious consequences that have resulted from it. There was a species of manure prepared in this country from whale blubber; we found this very deleterious, as they did in many of the neighbouring islands, from the noxious exhalation from the soil which it caused; it generated fevers of a very bad type indeed. Great mortality in that respect prevailed in Nevis, and Montserrat, and St. Vincent. We were fearful of the like occurrence in Antigua, and we prohibited its introduction by law. I have known 30 hogsheads of it thrown out of a ship, merely owing to the prohibition of its being landed. But other kinds of manure, that have not those objections to them, are introduced; bone manure, for instance.

2799. Mr. *Barclay.*] What artificial means do you find most beneficial?—It depends a good deal upon the nature of the soil you have to deal with; in a calcareous soil, we do not think the bone manure to be of so much consequence as in a clayey soil, or a loam that does not contain calcareous matter; but we have tried soot and salt, and many other things.

2800. *Chairman.*] What have you found to be the average produce of an acre of cane land under the system you have described?—We consider that the first crop of cane, under good tillage, ought to give three hogsheads an acre; and anything short of two hogsheads an acre would be considered very insufficient.

2801. What will the ratoon land give?—About half; my own experience went to this. I cut the plant cane and ratoon together, mixing the juice of each, and I estimated three hogsheads per acre from the plants, not estimating the ratoon that was mixed; that is to say, throwing in the ratoons. Averaging the produce of the plant canes and ratoons, I should say that the plant cane, mingling the ratoon with it, ought to give three hogsheads an acre for the plant cane. We occasionally ratoon the land twice; but under the general system, we ratoon it only once. One hundred and eighty acres in cane cultivation would assume this form, 60 acres would be in plant canes, 60 acres in ratoon canes, the other 60 would be in fallow, either naked or provision fallow. Then I should, in a good year, expect my 60 acres of plants to give me 180 hogsheads, mingling the ratoons. I would multiply the plant canes by three, not estimating the ratoons at all; but it requires a good year to do that.

2802. Mr. *Barclay.*] You have stated that the first crop is generally three hogsheads an acre, and ratoon land half the quantity?—I say that a very moderate estimate indeed would be two hogsheads an acre for the plant cane, and a hogshead, or a half hogshead, for the ratoon; but in a favourable year, when there has been sufficient rain, and the tillage good, and the land well manured, I should expect a return, as I have stated it, three hogsheads of plant, and not estimating the ratoon; but we cannot carry our production much beyond three hogsheads per acre; four hogsheads, however, are not an uncommon thing; I have known an instance of even five hogsheads an acre in Antigua.

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2803. *Chairman.*] From fresh plants?—From fresh plants; but I never knew but one instance of that.

2804. After you have cut canes from an acre of land for either one year, or two years, or three, as the case may be, how long do you estimate that in that county it is necessary for the land to lie fallow before it is again fit for cane cultivation?—We give it no fallow beyond the year, but we manure it.

2805. Then you do give it one year rest?—Of course; fallow implies rest.

2806. Are the Committee to understand your answer to be this, that after the growth of canes for one, two, or three years, as the case may be, you allow your land to rest idle for one year before you again plant canes upon it?—Precisely.

2807. And during that one year the land rests altogether; do you not cultivate it with any sort of crop?—Formerly we had a provision fallow crop, but now we do not, because we do not cultivate those ground provisions; it rests, but in the meantime we are accumulating manure, which we apply to it before we put it again into canes.

2808. And it is your opinion that the cane land in the colony of Antigua would not bear more continuous cultivation of canes than that which you have now described?—Certainly not.

2809. You have stated that the quantity of cane land upon your own estate is the same, or nearly the same now that it was during the period of slavery; do you find that the produce of that cane land is as large now as it was during the period of slavery?—I think so; always estimating the state of the season as regards rain, there is no difference whatever.

2810. In other respects you think it is not at all diminished?—Not at all.

2811. Do you find that you now have at your command a sufficient quantity of labour for the cultivation of your estate?—Quite; I think the general impression with us is, that we have a sufficient supply of labour for the country; the complaints are rather of a difficulty in finding money to pay the wages, than of a want of supply of labour. The difficulty of providing money for paying the wages, presses more of course in a year like the present of extremely short production.

2812. What is the cause of that shortness of production?—The want of rain; in estimating the crops in the island of Antigua, you must always have a reference to the state of the weather; they are not to be estimated at all by the supply or want of supply of labour; but up to the present moment they have been entirely referable to the state of production owing to drought, or the absence of drought.

2813. Is it your opinion that the answers you have now given with reference to your own estate, namely, that the produce has not fallen off, and that the amount of labour is sufficient, apply equally to the whole of the colony of Antigua?—I should apply it generally to the whole of the island; I must say, however, that some individuals have recently thought that the introduction of some useful labourers from any other quarter might be advantageous, in as far as it might tend to check any further rise in the price of labour; but in all my correspondences, I hear no complaints as to the supply of labour; but I hear constant complaints of the quantity of money which is necessary to pay them, and of the bills that have to be drawn to meet it at the present rate of wages. At the period of the emancipation our daily rate of wages was 6*d.* a day for agricultural labourers. It has now risen to 9*d.*, that is a rise of 50 per cent.

2814. What is the cause of that rise?—A great number have absented themselves from the service of the plantations; they are pursuing other occupations, and therefore they have withdrawn from agricultural labour, a certain number.

2815. Do you find any difficulty in obtaining continuous labour from those that remain with you?—I cannot say that we have had any great difficulty; we have succeeded better than I should have anticipated; but that is very much owing to the peculiarity of our contract law, which regulates the relations between master and servant. There was at first considerable complaint in this respect on the part of the planters.

2816. When was that law passed?—That law was passed in the year 1834, the year of the emancipation; in Antigua we never had any transition state of apprenticeship; we launched out at once from positive slavery into perfect freedom; there was no intermediate stage of apprenticeship of any description, but at the last stroke of the clock at 12, slavery ceased and absolute freedom commenced. It was necessary, therefore, to provide some laws to regulate the condition and relations

relations of men in those new capacities, and it was in the course of the years 1834 and 1835 that the laws which regulate our contracts were passed. I have the law at hand if the Committee wish to see it.

2817. Did you find that any serious difficulty or inconvenience resulted from the suddenness of that change?—Not the least.

2818. Whatever difficulty or inconvenience might otherwise have resulted, was entirely obviated by the law which was passed to meet that emergency?—Yes, any consequent difficulties were obviated in that way; we adopted what might appear a peculiar course; the course we took in renouncing the apprenticeship altogether required some peculiar provisions for the emergency, and our Act of Emancipation included provisions to regulate the relations of those who had been slaves with their employers for the period of one year and no longer. That embraced the year 1835. In the meantime the emancipation having been on the 1st of August 1834, we enacted, that up to the 1st of August 1835, this intermediate Act should be in operation, pointing out how those who had been slaves should be dealt with under the new state of things for one year. During the course of that year we prepared other enactments, regulating the relation between servant and master, in a manner as conformably as we possibly could to the law of England. In all our enactments we have endeavoured to take England as our model, conceiving that to be the best state of things, and in so far we have up to this hour succeeded.

2819. By whom is that law carried into effect?—It is administered by the magistrates of the country.

2820. Is there a stipendiary magistracy in Antigua?—At that time there was none; we have recently had two appointed for the island; but the magistrates in general are unpaid magistrates, consisting of the gentry of the country, appointed by the Governor as representative of the Crown.

2821. The provisions of the law are found to be sufficient to prevent any serious complaints upon the ground of want of continuous labour by the workmen?—Yes, I think they have proved themselves to be so.

2822. Have you had any immigration of labourers into the island of Antigua?—None whatever.

2823. Have you had any emigration of labourers from Antigua?—To a certain extent, but not to any distressing extent.

2824. To what pursuits have those labourers betaken themselves, to whom you have referred as having ceased to work upon the estates?—Many of them are now settled in their own cottages, which they hold in fee simple, having purchased the land and built the cottages; others may have cottages, paying a ground rent, and they reside there, and till any little ground they have round them, and they employ themselves, if they are tradespeople, in their trades, and if they are mere labourers, they seek their bread by occasional labour upon adjoining plantations.

2825. What extent of land have those labourers usually purchased?—A very small extent indeed.

2826. Only enough to supply themselves with provisions?—And barely that; in a climate of that sort such a plot of ground could by no means subsist a family for a year; nothing like a year, not perhaps for a month.

2827. From what source do they make up the deficiency?—By the wages of labour.

2828. Those are the occasional labourers to whom you have already referred who work in gangs upon the plantations?—Yes.

2829. Have you known any instances of any property more extensive than those small plots being purchased by free labourers?—None whatever.

2830. Have you known any instance of labourers combining together to purchase estates?—Nothing of the sort.

2831. In all those instances in which land has been purchased by labourers have they confined their cultivation to provisions, or have they in any instance attempted the cultivation of sugar?—Not sugar; the cane plant is a very useful thing independently of sugar. It is a very useful thing as grass, as food for animals, for pigs, and for some other things that the cottager likes, and he may have a few canes for that purpose; and the cane is known to be a fruit, the juice of which is very refreshing. I should not say that they plant canes for producing sugar; they plant canes as an useful article of growth, as grass, or as affording means of subsistence for their animals, their hogs, or their goats, or whatever they

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have; there is no instance to my knowledge of their bringing canes to be made into sugar.

2832. To what extent has emigration taken place from Antigua?—It is mere surmise on my part, but I should not say that we have lost above some 400 or 500 persons, and many of them have returned. I see by the late papers a notice of that.

2833. Do you know where they went to?—Chiefly to Trinidad and Demerara.

2834. Do you know whether persons have come to Antigua for the purpose of inducing labourers to emigrate to other colonies?—Several came from Demerara.

2835. Do you think the labouring population of Antigua is so large, that you can afford emigration without injuring the present cultivation?—Decidedly not; there is no superabundant population; we have barely sufficient for our purposes; we could not endure any extended emigration at all to any quarter.

2836. Is there any emigration from the island of Antigua actually going on at this time?—I see in the papers of the island notices of labourers about to depart; but that is always the case. Some three or four persons are generally announcing their intention to depart; but, on the other hand, the papers note the return of many that have gone away previously, which has probably been caused by some of those islands having been compelled to reduce their wages, Trinidad particularly; and having reduced their wages, the Antigua labourer has no motive for remaining there.

2837. Have you found that the expense of cultivating an estate in Antigua has increased or diminished since the commencement of freedom?—When our labour was at 6*d.* a day, which it continued to be for several years after the emancipation, I collated many documents in the presence of different philanthropic gentlemen who visited the colony at different times to see how the thing was working, and I think we made it out that the free labour system was the cheaper of the two; but as the price of labour has now risen 50 per cent. we are now to take a different view of the matter, and I rather think that our expenses are just at this moment somewhat beyond the amount of slave labour.

2838. Are you of opinion that there is any considerable distress or difficulty existing at this time amongst the planters and proprietors connected with the island of Antigua?—Very considerable; Antigua has its afflictions of a very serious character, but they proceed more from those circumstances which no human means can obviate, they proceed entirely from drought, and short production.

2839. Whatever difficulties exist proceed from the accidents of climate, to which Antigua was always subject as much as now, and have not been in any degree caused by the result of emancipation?—Just so, I would add that drought appears to have prevailed more of late years, throughout the West India Colonies, than it did some little time back.

2840. From what you have stated, it appears that the exports of Antigua, have not undergone any material change?—Upon that point I would beg leave to observe that we have in Antigua a record made on the 25th of January in every year, made upon oath, by a person, either the proprietor or whoever has the direction or administration of each estate; that record is kept in the treasury of the island, and there are record books which give a return of the production of every individual year, and it does not appear, as far as I am able to ascertain that the production of sugar has at all declined upon a long average of years in the Island of Antigua.

2841. Do you export anything besides sugar?—Rum and molasses.

2842. Then the general exports of the island have not been diminished?—With this limitation, that rum is not now produced as it used to be, owing to rum not being a profitable source of trade or production; the price of rum has fallen so exceedingly below what it formerly was, that whereas formerly the island produced some 3,000 puncheons of rum per annum, the export now is reduced to about 900.

2843. Has the difference been compensated by an increased export of any other article of production?—No, the sugar is about the same as before.

2844. Has the export of molasses at all increased?—The natural consequence of not making rum, would lead, of course, to a greater export of molasses, but there has been a greater consumption of molasses within the island since freedom, than there was formerly, therefore some little allowance is to be made on that account.

2845. Mr. *Howard.*] Is that the case with the sugar too?—Yes, it is; more

sugar

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sugar is consumed in the island. The average production of sugar in the island of Antigua for many years prior to emancipation, was about 13,400 or 13,500 hogsheads. The return is taken from the records kept in the Treasury-office, which would clearly indicate the actual quantity sent off from each plantation, it would include all the Custom-house exports; I have a return here of the quantity of sugar, rum, and molasses, made in the island of Antigua, from the year 1826 to the year 1838, as extracted from the books of the Colonial Treasury. I have not got with me a return from the treasury of the island later than 1838, and in making my estimate, I have been obliged to take for the remaining years 1839, 1840, and 1841, an abstract from the Custom-house Report. But it would seem that from the year 1826, down to the year 1834, which was the year of emancipation, the average production was 13,243 hogsheads, the hogshead being estimated at 1,500 lbs. net. The rum was 2,173 puncheons, the puncheon being estimated at 110 gallons, and of molasses, 7,606 puncheons, estimated at the like quantity. The year 1834, the last year of slavery, was a year of very extraordinary production in the island of Antigua. The export of that year amounted to 20,263 hogsheads of sugar.

[*The Paper was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

RETURN of the Quantity of SUGAR, RUM, and MOLASSES, made in the Island of *Antigua*, from the Year 1826 to the Year 1838, as extracted from the Books of the Colonial Treasury, and duly verified on Oath, under the Record Act passed in 1799, but which Return is exclusive of the Quantity which may be reserved on each Plantation for Domestic Use. The Weight of each Hogshead being estimated at 1,500 lbs. net.

YEARS.	SUGAR.	RUM.	MOLASSES.
	Hhds.	*Puns.*	*Puns.*
1826 - - -	17,085	2,966	8,742
1827 - - -	5,965	989	2,990
1828 - - -	14,150	2,126	7,912
1829 - - -	12,849	3,024	6,338
1830 - - -	12,025	2,943	4,259
1831 - - -	13,148	2,489	7,912
1832 - - -	12,612	2,180	8,148
1833 - - -	11,092	1,705	8,231
1834 - - -	20,263	1,149	13,818
1835 - - -	13,576	1,907	8,425
1836 - - -	10,312	946	4,149
1837 - - -	5,325	431	3,039
1838 - - -	18,251	1,115	12,113

Average for the Nine Years of Slavery.

SUGAR.	RUM.	MOLASSES.
Hhds. 13,243	*Puns.* 2,173	*Puns.* 7,606

Emancipation, 1 August 1834.

N.B.—Crop 1834 is of course stated as belonging to the period of slavery, though a small portion may have been completed subsequently to the 1st of August, the day of emancipation.

I regret that I am not at this moment in possession of the Treasury Record for the subsequent years of 1839, 1840, and 1841, though such record is of course continued annually, as usual.

Some further information is, however, to be derived from the valuable report of the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Walker (under date 24 July 1841), as detailed in the documents recently printed and submitted to Parliament; that gentleman furnishes us with a Custom-house Return of the Exports of the Staple Productions, as follows:

	SUGAR.	RUM.	MOLASSES.	
1839 - -	14,678 hhds.	—	—	Rum, 327 hhds. equal to 178 puncheons.
	1,059 trs.	486 puns.	8,709 puns.	Molasses, 1,192 casks,
	1,764 brls.	327 hhds.	1,192 casks.	equal to 613 puncheons.
1840 - -	13,090 hhds.	722 puns.	7,937 puns.	Molasses, 489 casks,
	1,229 trs.	- - -	489 casks.	equal to 266 puncheons.
	2,269 brls.	—	—	

N.B.—The

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N.B.—The return for the last two years, being derived from the Custom-house, and not the Treasury, the weight of the hogsheads must be estimated by a different standard, say at least 1,650 lbs. net; the tierces, say at 1,000 lbs. net, and the barrels at 250 lbs.; rum and molasses at 110 gallons per puncheon. With this correction, the average annual production for the six years of free labour, from the end of 1834 to the end of 1840, would exhibit a comparative result of 13,400 hhds. of sugar, 814 puncheons of rum, 7,541 puncheons of molasses; besides which, there is still to be added, in the estimate of production since the period of freedom, the actual quantity sold and consumed in the island during each of the two last years, and which of course could not be included in the amount actually exported through the Custom-house. The quantity of molasses consumed in the island, and not therefore included in the Custom-house exports, is considerably greater now than in the time of slavery. The rum actually shipped is of higher proof than formerly; but the general production of this staple has gradually declined, in consequence of the low prices in the British and other markets of the world, which do not repay the cost of production.

2846. Will you explain why you reckoned 1,650 lbs. to the hogshead latterly, and only 1,500 lbs. formerly?—The Act of the island, called the Record Act, enjoins that the sugar should be returned in pounds weight, and it enjoins that the hogshead should be averaged at 1,500 lbs. net; therefore, as far as relates to the Treasury Record, it is fixed by that, but we all know that when we come to export our sugar, our casks are considerably beyond 1,500 lbs. in weight. Many of our casks run to 2,000 lbs. net, and many to 1,800 lbs. or 1,900 lbs., and therefore to give a fair view of the thing I have estimated the Custom-house hogshead at 1,650 lbs. net, which I think is a fair average, and rather below the reality.

2847. Have the imports increased in a material degree since the commencement of freedom?—Yes, exceedingly, beyond measure.

2848. What has been the nature of the additional imports?—I believe in every article of manufactured goods there is greater consumption now than before; and I have already stated a circumstance which forms another reason, which is, that provisions are not so much grown in the island, consequently there is a greater import of provisions from foreign countries than before.

2849. Do you consider that the increase in the imports arises in a very great degree from the increased demand for comforts and luxuries on the part of the negroes?—Most certainly.

2850. Have you any returns from which you can state the exact difference in the imports, taking a given number of years previous to emancipation, and the period which has elapsed since?—I am afraid I have no returns which would be satisfactory upon that point, but the Committee will find in the Parliamentary papers some useful remarks upon that subject by Mr. Walker, who is a stipendiary magistrate of Antigua. There is no sort of question that the mercantile establishments are more numerous.

2851. Can you state generally what has been the increase in the imports?—I cannot state the numbers; we have 2 ½ per cent. leviable upon the imports into Antigua, but I cannot state what the increase has been in the revenue. There has been a large increase in the importation of British manufactures and the productions of all foreign countries since the period of freedom.

2852. Can you state what is the revenue of Antigua?—The standing revenue of the island of Antigua is about 30,000 *l.* currency, which we may call 15,000 *l.* sterling; but, in cases of extraordinary expenditure, it is augmented by export duties upon produce; but the standing fixed revenue of the country is about 30,000 *l.* currency.

2853. Has that revenue increased?—Yes, it has.

2854. To any large extent?—I was in conversation a few weeks back with the treasurer of the island, and he told me that last year there was a very considerable augmentation in consequence of the increased importation.

2855. Will you state what, in your opinion, has been the effect of emancipation upon the character and habits of the negro population?—I should say it has been very favourable; I think that all classes of people in the island of Antigua have benefited by emancipation. We are all very thankful that the measure took place, and I think there has been a continuous, as well as a progressive, improvement in the habits of the labouring population.

2856. In what respects have you observed that improvement has taken place?—Their attendance at schools, and their attendance at many places of religious worship is a very strong indication of improvement. There is a great spirit abroad of improvement in an educational point of view, which in Antigua is carried to a very surprising extent, and the places of public worship, whether as regards Episcopal

copal churches, or as regards the missionaries and Dissenters, are much increased. Numbers of churches and chapels have been built to supply places for their attendance, and I think the increased number of marriages is a strong indication of an improved state of society. We find the people orderly, and they are becoming more intelligent every day.

2857. Has the number of churches and schools increased since the commencement of freedom?—Undoubtedly.

2858. Has that increase in the number of schools and churches been caused by any act of the legislature of the island?—To a certain extent, not exclusively; the legislature has done what was within its compass and its ability to further those purposes; but I should say that the maintenance of religious societies in the island, was chiefly owing to the funds which the missions derived from Great Britain, and also from Parliamentary grants and from votes from different religious bodies in England, such as the Christian Faith Society. We have also the Mico Charity in extensive operation there.

2859. Do you know of any efforts having been made by the negroes themselves to supply funds for building churches or carrying on schools?—Yes, they pay their mite towards it.

2860. Are they called upon in any instance to contribute towards the expense of the education of their children?—No.

2861. Is education given to them gratuitously?—It is, but it is thought advisable that the parents should contribute some trifling sum for the purpose.

2862. Are the parents obliged to make that small contribution?—Certainly not, those connected with the Church of England; but I believe the missionary bodies think it advisable as a means of exciting an interest on their part. But the people are rather proud and desirous to make that contribution.

2863. When you say "certainly not," in the case of the Church of England, are you speaking of the means of religious worship or of the means of education?—Both.

2864. In the case of the Church of England, both the means of religious worship and of education are given gratuitously altogether?—So far as I know.

2865. Are you of opinion that the system adopted by the missionaries is a better one, and that it would be desirable in all cases to call upon the parents to contribute towards the benefit which their children obtain?—I think it is desirable that they should contribute in a slight degree; not in an oppressive degree.

2866. When they are called upon so to do, is it found that there has been a willingness on the part of the negroes to contribute?—Undoubtedly.

2867. For what amount were they called upon?—I do not know the details, but there is some little trifle that the negro parents pay to the missionaries for lights and candles, in the case of evening school.

2868. But whenever the means of education, or of religious instruction have been deficient, the legislature of the colony has always been willing to supply the deficiency?—Yes.

2869. And at present the means are in general abundant?—The means from various sources have not been wanting; a great deal has been accomplished; it is a matter of astonishment to everybody that visits the island.

2870. And a great improvement in the character of the negro has been the result?—I think so.

2871. Mr. *Barclay.*] You mentioned that you used ploughs; do you speak of your own estate, or of the colony generally?—It is very general indeed in the island.

2872. Is it since emancipation that the plough has been introduced?—No; it is extended more since emancipation, but I began to plough with horses in 1816, and I have never desisted from it.

2873. Is the plough more used now than during slavery?—I believe it is.

2874. Do you use any other mechanical means for cultivating the land?—We use auxiliary instruments of the harrow, the scarifier, and the grubber, &c.

2875. Do you use the horse-hoe?—The horse-hoe we have not used; it has not altogether succeeded with us.

2876. Has the employment of that machinery tended much to economise the cost of production?—Very considerably.

2877. Then, in point of fact, is the cost of production less now than it was during slavery?—I have stated upon that point generally, that when human labour was at 6 *d.* I thought we made it out to be cheaper than in the state of slavery; but

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now that the cost of human labour has become considerably greater, the expenditure may be in the aggregate somewhat greater.

2878. Then is the increase in the cost of production very slight, notwithstanding the rise in the price of wages?—I think it has been very slight; slave-labour in the island of Antigua was particularly dear as compared with other colonies, because the chief item in the cost of slave-labour in Antigua was the feeding and maintaining the people.

2879. You have stated, that notwithstanding the abundance of labour which you possessed, the sugar cultivation has not been profitable the last few years?—That is owing to the drought; had we had sufficient moisture, we should have carried on the cultivation with profit, but in years of intense drought, as for instance in the present, when we have been seven months without rain, of course the cost of production must be very great indeed, because the expenses are not diminished with a short return.

2880. By the high price of sugar, are you not compensated for the short crops?—In the aggregate of years it may be so, and with moderately favourable years the price of sugar in Europe is certainly a sustaining principle, and leads, of course, to a more profitable cultivation.

2881. For the last three or four years, has not the price of sugar been high in Europe?—It is that alone which has enabled us to maintain our ground in any respect; we should have sunk without that.

2882. Supposing any great reduction took place in the price of sugar in the English market, what would be the effect of that reduction in price upon your cultivation?—It would be extremely prejudicial; the reduction might be such as to lead us to abandon the cultivation altogether, because we could not pay the cost of production.

2883. Supposing you were placed in competition with the slave colonies, Cuba and the Brazils?—We could not stand that competition.

2884. Notwithstanding the low price of labour with you?—Notwithstanding the low price of labour with us; though in any individual case, 9*d.* a day may appear a small sum for daily wages, yet in the aggregate, the expenditure is very considerable.

2885. You have stated that the present cost of production is not greater than it was during slavery; then how is it that you cannot compete now with slave colonies?—The slave colonies to which I refer are foreign colonies, and even during the time of slavery in the English colonies, they made sugar much cheaper than we could in the English islands; their system is different; and certainly we could not stand a competition which should depreciate our prices still more than they are.

2886. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] To what do you attribute the power of those foreign colonies to produce sugar cheaper than you could at that time?—The fertility of their soil, and the nature of their climate; and their allowances to their negroes were very insignificant compared with ours. The slave in the Brazils or in Cuba is not maintained by any distribution of provisions on the part of the master; he is allowed his ground, and for the rest nothing but a little pickled fish; he is not clad with the raiment that the English labourer would have in a state of slavery, they wear comparatively very few clothes; and they are allowed in Catholic countries to violate the Sabbath by employing it in cultivating the negro grounds, which subsist them. This is a state of things which could not take place in Antigua.

2887. Do you think that the comparatively greater difficulty of production is greater now than it was during the period of slavery as between yourselves and foreign colonies?—I think it is somewhat greater than it used to be; I think they can cultivate much cheaper; our colonial expenses have added so much to the cost of production with us. All our outlay is greater than it used to be; our taxes, public and parochial, have increased, and therefore our cost of production is greater now than it used to be, *cæteris paribus.*

2888. Is that increase owing to emancipation?—A great part of it; for instance, the police establishment and the establishment of houses of correction; all those things add considerably to the cost of the country; and all those beneficial improvements in the building of churches and schools add to our cost.

2889. *Chairman.*] In what respect have the public and parochial taxes increased?—With regard to the public taxes, I have stated that they are the standing sources of revenue in the colony, which may not have added much to our system of taxes, except that they have increased to the consumer materially the cost

cost of the articles; but in particular years, when we have had extraordinary charges to incur, we have been obliged to make it up by an export tax upon our productions: upon each hogshead of sugar exported so much; upon each puncheon of rum so much, and so with molasses.

2890. What has been the increase in the parochial taxes?—Under ordinary circumstances, I should not say that the parochial taxes have been exceedingly oppressive, but there are particular years in which they become burdensome to a degree.

2891. Have they greatly increased since emancipation?—Yes, I think they have.

2892. What has been the nature of that increase?—Formerly there were no poor to be subsisted; now a black labourer has the same claim upon the parish that myself or any other individual would have.

2893. Do you mean that any recognised poor law is now in operation in Antigua?—We have Acts and laws for the relief of the poor; but it is not a system analogous to the law of England.

2894. Are the Committee to understand that since the commencement of freedom the maintenance and support of infirm and disabled persons has been thrown upon the parochial taxes?—Of course.

2895. Have you heard, since the commencement of freedom, that the able-bodied labourers are not able or willing to support their aged relatives?—Generally, it is very creditable to them that they are very much disposed to maintain their relatives; but there are particular cases of infirmity and destitution where a claim upon the parish would be unavoidable; in the case of a blind person, for instance, or a person who had lost a limb.

2896. Has any law been passed in the colony to define the mode or the extent to which such relief is to be afforded?—We have done no more than this, that we have placed the emancipated labourers upon the same footing as the other free men. We have never had in Antigua any system of poor law analogous to that of England; we do not admit the principle that a man, as of right, can go to his parish for relief; he can only go as an object of compassion.

2897. As an object of compassion, you are understood to say, that relief is now in some cases afforded?—Yes.

2898. And when so afforded, it is defrayed from a parochial tax?—Yes.

2899. Under what law is that parochial tax levied?—Under the established laws of the country; there are laws that have existed for ages for the maintenance of ministers, and a provision for the poor of each parish.

2900. Under the operation of that law, from what class of people is the parochial tax to be enforced?—Some of it by assessments upon the parish, in the form of parochial rates; and these are of various characters; there have been very heavy assessments for the building and repair of churches. There is a very extraordinary and rather painful instance of a parochial assessment at this very moment in the parish of St. Peter, where they are building a new church, where the assessment has gone to an extent which would astonish the Committee. I know one proprietor in that parish who is assessed at this moment in the sum if not less than 2,200 *l.* currency, as his parochial tax for the current year, in consequence of the erection of this church. I believe there is no mystery about it, that Sir Bethel Codrington stands at this moment in about 1,100 *l.* or 1,200 *l.* sterling as his parochial tax for one year; and this, coming after a heavy assessment in last year, and with two heavy assessments for two years to come in contemplation. I do not mention this as a proof of discretion but of zeal.

2901. Under what law is that rate levied?—Under an old law which has existed for a long time, establishing in the vestry, and churchwardens, and rector of the parish, or the majority of them, a right to assess the parish for anything required for the building or the repair of the church.

2902. With what party does it rest as to the extent to which it shall be carried?—The vestry, and the churchwardens, and the rector.

2903. Does it also rest with the vestry, and churchwardens, and the rector to say to what destitute persons relief may be given?—Yes; no man as of right has any claim on parish relief; consequently no able-bodied man or woman ever appears for parochial relief; the system of the country merely is to give it as a compassionate or a Samaritan aid.

2904. Mr. *Godson*.] Is not it done annually?—Yes.

 2905. Supposing

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2905. Supposing a person blind or afflicted with disease, the vestry awards that he shall have such a sum annually?—So much weekly; paid by the church-warden.

2906. But the grant continuing the whole year through?—Yes.

2907. *Chairman.*] There is no poor law in existence, but it is the practice for the vestry to relieve destitute persons from the parish rates?—Yes; they are required to do it by law.

2908. Mr. *Godson.*] And they generally do it so as to continue during the person's life?—They renew it from year to year.

2909. You have spoken of the expenses now being larger, in consequence of the wages increasing from 6 *d.* to 9 *d.*; and you say that the local charges in the island have very much increased; are the Committee to understand that they have increased in the proportion of 50 per cent.?—I have given that some consideration, though I am not able to submit any confirmatory documents at present; but I have estimated that the cost of the production of a hogshead of sugar at the time of the emancipation, and for a few years afterwards, was about 5 *l.* sterling a hogshead; I find that at this day the cost of the production and manufacture, merely for wages and labour alone, is 7 *l.* sterling per hogshead.

2910. You mentioned that with respect to the year 1834, emancipation took immediate effect in Antigua. Did that arise from your having too many negroes in the island before emancipation took place, so that they were a burden to the estate to maintain them?—I should not say that that was the general motive at all, if it was one. Very few estates were encumbered with surplus hands.

2911. What did you mean by saying, that the chief expense before emancipation was the feeding and maintaining your labourers?—I should say the most important part of the expense during slavery consisted in maintaining the people where their number, as it was in many cases, was over and above the requirements of the plantation for such labour. But that was not our motive for the emancipation.

2912. Does your last answer apply generally to the island?—Not generally, because a great many plantations were short-handed; but others were overborne by a multitude of people; they had dependents that they were obliged to maintain; they could not get rid of them; they could not be sold; they could not be exported.

2913. At that time a law existed by which they could not be removed from one island to another?—Just so.

2914. Were not the negroes in Antigua in a more civilised state in 1834 than they were generally in the other islands?—I think that was so.

2915. Was not that generally believed to be the case?—Yes, undoubtedly; otherwise we could hardly have ventured upon the measure that we took, which was thought by some a very rash one at the time. The reasons why we took that bold step I can explain.

2916. You have spoken of dry weather in the island; suppose the dry weather to continue for any length of time, the small quantities of land purchased by the negroes not being sufficient for their subsistence, how are they maintained then?—They live by the wages of their labour; the planter continues to employ them. The labourer in Antigua is dependent upon the proprietor as much as the proprietor is upon the labourer; hence we have a sustaining principle within us; and it is comfortable to both parties, because in a year of destitution to the labourer, he comes immediately to the proprietor to give him the wages of labour; and the planter, though he may be miserably off himself, yet he has a sustaining credit with the English merchant that enables him to carry through the labourer at his period of destitution.

2917. In consequence then of the negro not being able to maintain himself on his little ground, and being thus driven to the planter, is the planter enabled to have a better command of labour in Antigua than he otherwise would have?—Unquestionably.

2918. How does the negro feed himself, having got the money, the dry weather continuing?—He goes to market, and buys what he considers sufficient for himself and his family for the week, either Indian corn meal, which is a great article of consumption there, or rice (East India rice is very largely imported), or flour, and they will have no flour but the best and the finest, and bread, biscuit, and so on.

2919. Is that Canadian or American flour?—The flour that is consumed comes from

from different parts of the world. A considerable portion of it comes from the United States of America. Another portion is bonded flour from England; foreign flour, which is bonded in Great Britain, and exported largely to the colony. Another portion comes to us from the French colonies; French flour.

2920. You have spoken of a great falling off in rum since the emancipation; has more been consumed in the island than before?—I am afraid there has.

2921. Is that one reason why the export is less?—It may be one of the reasons.

2922. One reason you have mentioned is, that the price is not a remunerating price?—Certainly it is not.

2923. Have you made any calculation of what would be a remunerating price either of sugar or rum?—With regard to sugar, I have. I have observed, in the Parliamentary documents, that Mr. Walker, who has given a very intelligent report, and I think a very fair and impartial one, says that he thinks a remunerating price should be at least 61*s.* 6*d.* But I observe that in that estimate, Mr. Walker has not in any degree noted the additional five per cent. which is now put upon our sugar. My won impression is, that 63*s.* would be requisite to give us a fair remuneration for our sugar.

2924. When you put sugar at 63*s.* as a remunerating price, do you take into the calculation what ought to be the price of rum to be remunerating, or molasses?—Yes: I should say that we ought to have 10*l.* sterling per puncheon for molasses; and I think it would be a very great relief to the colonies if the duty payable on molasses could be lowered; it would not much interfere with the revenue of the country. The consumption would be increased if the duty could be diminished, and it would be a great comfort to the people of England. It would supply them with more sugar, for molasses is generally boiled into sugar now.

2925. As to the third produce, the rum; what do you consider to be a fair average?—It is so long since I have ceased to make rum, that I have nearly lost sight of it; but I should say that we could not continue to make rum in the island of Antigua, unless we have 5*s.* currency a gallon there, 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling; but the proprietors do not get more than 6*d.* sterling a gallon upon exporting it to England. All the rest is absorbed in the various charges in the Excise and Customs, and the profits of the various parties through whose hands it passes; so that when rum from Antigua was selling in London to the consumer at the rate of 15*s.* a gallon (the Antigua rum being of prime quality) the charges and duties in the Excise and Customs augmented the price to upwards of 30 times beyond what the proprietor got; the proprietor got but 6*d.* sterling, in cases where I have known that the rum was selling in England by the retailer at 15*s.* a gallon; I could produce account sales to show that some years ago.

2926. Mr. *Barclay.*] In former times, during slavery, did not you generally calculate that the rum and molasses paid the expenses of cultivation?—Yes; the rum and molasses.

2927. Now you have not that resource?—No.

2928. Is that one reason why sugar cultivation is more expensive than it was formerly?—It is one among many reasons; rum and molasses will not now in any reasonable proportion bear the cost of production. The Americans have ceased to take our productions. The great market for rum was in America; now they never come to us at all for that purpose; they bring lumber and corn meal, but they take nothing back from us; they must have it all in money, and they go with that money to Porto Rico, where they buy cheaper sugar, and cheaper rum, and cheaper molasses, than we can supply them with, and in that way the balance of trade is exceedingly against us.

2929. Mr. *Godson.*] You have spoken of estates producing three hogsheads an acre; you said, that supposing you had good seasons, you could produce about three hogsheads an acre, taking a third of the estate; were you speaking then of your own estate in particular, or as a fair average for the island?—A fair average for the island in a year of seasonable weather, and under good tillage and highly manured.

2930. Supposing it was a bad year, what would be the lowest?—This very year it is reduced in two parts of the island to half a hogshead per acre. That estate of my own, for instance, which might make 180, and which ought to make 120 or 130 this year, will not make more than 40 as an average; therefore the cost of the production being the same, the Committee may conceive what the state of things is.

2931. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Do you consider the island to possess an ade-

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quate population in proportion to the extent of sugar cultivation, and the amount of capital invested in it?—I should say that the island of Antigua is capable of sustaining a much greater population than it does; I think that its present population may be sufficient to enable us, with a reform in our rural economy, to maintain our present position; the island is capable of maintaining double the population that it has, I should say.

2932. If half the population were to emigrate, would not the effect be to increase the rate of wages and render the working of those who remain much less continuous?—Yes, of course there would be a great temptation to depart from contracts for labour, and half the population going away would be almost utter destruction. The fewer the hands are that will offer themselves for labour, the higher the rate of wages must be.

2933. Were not the laws passed in Antigua in 1834 disallowed by the Home Government when passed by all the other legislative colonies in 1838?—I heard with some surprise and regret that laws similar to those of Antigua had been disallowed in some of the other legislative colonies. The enactments of the island of Antigua of 1834 and 1835 were received with the highest possible commendation by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State of that day.

2934. Did they not contain stringent regulations as to every negro being under contract to work for some property?—I can scarcely admit that those regulations deserved to be called stringent. The labourers could not be compelled to anything. We did nothing more than this, to put our negro labourer on the same footing as a servant in husbandry in Great Britain; a farm servant, in every point of view as far as I know, without the slightest departure from the law of England; therefore it could hardly be called anything very stringent. To be sure, some of the negro labourers themselves might have thought it stringent, for they had now to work for their bread, when they were before fed by the owner; but in no other point of view was it stringent. I do not think that anything that is the prevailing and long-continued and constitutional law of England can be called stringent to any other class of free people. It is sufficient for us to show that it is entirely analagous to the law of England, and therefore I cannot apprehend that anything in those enactments can be called particularly stringent.

2935. Did the labourers themselves complain of their stringency?—I think not; not knowing their new position well, I certainly heard of complaints from time to time, but the law had a salutary effect in bringing them to a sense of their true position.

2936. Previously to emancipation, did the labourers attend public worship generally?—Yes, very generally. The island of Antigua has long had established there the most extensive mission of the Moravian Brethren which exists in the world. The Moravian Brethren came originally to the West Indies about the year 1732. They first settled themselves in a small Danish island, near Tortola, St. John's. They found that that was not a sufficiently ample field for their labours, and they sent a branch mission to Antigua, which I think came to Antigua as early as the year 1746, and they have gone on increasing their missions till this present hour, when they have eight establishments in the island. The last return of their congregations that I saw, which was a few years back, showed that 14,000 of the labouring class of Antigua belonged to the congregations of those Brethren, and to their several establishments, and it was said that 9,000 of the number were communicants. And it is well known that the Moravian Brethren always look closely into the lives of their followers. That is one reason why social and moral improvement have so much extended. Then the Wesleyan Brethren came to the island at a very early period; they came as early as 1763, which was in the time of Wesley himself, I believe. They began to establish missions there, and they have gone on progressively till they have now established several very large churches, with schools annexed.

2937. *Chairman.*] Was Christianity general amongst the negroes during slavery?—Yes, in Antigua.

2938. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You stated that a number of churches and chapels have lately been built; is that since emancipation?—Prior to emancipation some were commenced, but they have gone on extending.

2939. Were those churches built prior to emancipation?—Some of them.

2940. Can you state the names of any churches that have been built since emancipation?—There is the church of St. Philip.

2941. Was not that only a change of the site of the church?—It was a rebuild-

ing

ing of it; there was very small accommodation in the old church, and now there is very extensive accommodation. In the same parish there is St. Stephen's. Then in a part of the country where other parishes join, there has recently been built and endowed by the colony, a chapel called All Saints. Then in the parish of St. John's, there have been two chapels of ease, one called St. Luke's, the other I forget the name of, I think St. James's.

2942. Those places of worship have been built since emancipation?—Yes, and the Wesleyans and Moravians have built many chapels. The parish church of St. Peter, which I alluded to, is now in course of building; an architect was sent out from England on purpose.

2943. Prior to the emancipation, did the negroes show any desire to improve themselves?—Yes, because those missions had all laboured successfully in spreading the Gospel.

2944. You stated that emancipation or freedom was entered upon very suddenly in Antigua?—Yes.

2945. Was there a visible improvement among the negroes immediately that emancipation took place?—No, nothing remarkable in the change could be observed.

2946. What portion of land in Antigua is out of cultivation?—I should say on a rough estimate, one-third may be out of cultivation.

2947. Are there any deserted lands on which the negroes might squat?—Nothing of the sort; we have no Crown land or public land of any sort.

2948. Was the price of labour so low in Antigua in 1840 and 1841, that the price of sugar in the London market was fairly remunerative?—The price of labour never exceeded a remunerative return in that particular year, 1840; nobody would have complained of the price of labour then.

2949. What was it in 1841?—I think Antigua sugars brought 80*s.*, or 83*s.* and 84*s.* in 1840, and they have since brought and now bring 63*s.* 64*s.* or 65*s.*

2950. Do you say, that under the increased expense for police and new churches and schools, the prospects of the island in a mercantile point of view have been benefited by emancipation?—I think everything that tends to public security, and to the bettering of social order adds to the value of property. I should say, that as regards the production of sugar in a decidedly good year, the prices of labour are not particularly to be objected to; it is in those years of short and deficient production that we feel the pressure.

2951. Do you look upon landed property in Antigua to be more valuable now than it was in times of slavery?—In my own individual estimation it is, because we have got rid of everything that tended to make property insecure; I can give one example of what is considered in the market the relative value of property. Sir William Payne Galwey has, a few months ago, sold an estate in the island of Antigua, called Carlisle's. In the most prosperous days of slavery that estate could not have been estimated much beyond 25,000*l.* for money down; it sold last year to a friend of mine for 15,000*l.*; but then for the slaves, of course, the compensation-money had been paid; so that taking that into consideration, I say it was sold for three-fifths of the value of it in time of slavery.

2952. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Do you know what amount of compensation he received upon that estate?—No, I should think he could not have received less than between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.*; that is mere surmise of mine.

2953. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Bringing the amount received up to 19,000*l.*?—Possibly.

2954. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] At what period of slavery do you think the estate was worth the sum you have mentioned?—Some few years prior to emancipation; not immediately before emancipation, because there had been a great diminution in the value of West India property for some years prior to emancipation; there was such insecurity and doubt hanging over the whole of that property, that that estate which had been considered of high value, could scarcely be sold upon any terms.

2955. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Did that insecurity and doubt arise from supposition that some change was going to be made regarding slavery?—Undoubtedly, everybody knew from the Parliamentary discussions, and the state of feeling in the mother country, that some change was immediately contemplated, and people felt fearful of the result.

2956. What was the number of acres in cultivation in Antigua during the last year of slavery?—The whole island contains 69,000 acres, and I stated that two-thirds of it may be considered in cultivation.

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2957. Do you know what was the number of slaves upon the island at that time?—About 29,500.

2958. You have stated that some properties had too few labourers upon them, and that some had too many; where they had too many, could not they be transferred to other estates?—No, they could not; they could not be sold; they had no marketable value.

2959. Could no negotiation be entered into between the owners of different estates for that purpose?—They might be hired.

2960. You say that the consumption of rum in the island is greater since emancipation?—Yes, I am afraid it is.

2961. Are the negroes addicted to intemperance?—I should not say that it was any part of the failing of the negro to be addicted to the abuse of spirituous liquors; but in this point of view, perhaps, there was an increased consumption that many planters, when pressed for labour, have given in addition to the wages a small quantity of rum. That certainly was working a great demoralisation of the people; even women, who had never dreamt of such a thing before, began to drink ardent spirits, and it became so crying an evil that the Legislature interfered, and the distribution of rum in part payment of wages was absolutely prohibited by law; it was prohibited in this way, that the planter who did such a thing was to be compelled to take out a licence to retail spirits, and the sum to be paid for this licence was so very large that it would not be worth any man's while to subject himself to the penalty.

2962. *Chairman.*] When did that law pass?—About two years or two years and a half ago.

2963. Mr. *Howard.*] Was the rise of wages from 6*d.* to 9*d.* a day in consequence of the diminished quantity of rum given out?—No, I do not think it had any reference to that; it had reference to the demand for labour, and probably the great want of agricultural population at certain periods.

2964. Have you observed any alteration in the land in Antigua; is it as fertile as it was when you first knew it?—Quite so; I should not say that the tillage is so neat as it used to be, but the fertility of the soil is as great as it ever was. It is a mistake to say that the old islands are exhausted; there is no possibility of the soil failing so long as you have the substratum that exists there

2965. If there were sufficient immigration of labourers to Trinidad, to Guiana, and to other more fertile colonies, do you think you would be able to compete with them?—I do not know that we could; they have many collateral advantages that we do not possess, and we have some that they do not possess; but I presume that they could not prejudice us in any great degree. I do not think our interests are at all incompatible; I think that what would benefit Demerara would benefit us, except as to the withdrawal of labourers.

2966. You state that you would not be able to compete with Cuba if the duties on foreign sugar were reduced?—No; but there is a slave system in Cuba, and that is not the case in Demerara.

2967. If in Guiana and Trinidad there were a sufficient amount of labour, would you be able to compete with those fertile countries?—They might produce such a vast extent of sugar as to swamp us in the market, but we have no apprehensions.

2968. *Chairman.*] Do not you think that, under prosperous circumstances, with sufficient labour and fair wages, the production of sugar would be cheaper under free labour than under slave labour anywhere?—Yes; that is my impression, certainly.

2969. Mr. *Barclay.*] Could not a greater degree of economy be introduced into the cultivation of sugar in Antigua?—Undoubtedly.

2970. Could you not by that means reduce the expense of production?—I think we might to a certain extent.

2971. Could not you cultivate the land with fewer hands than are now in use?—Yes, with some few less; but at all times we require a large body of labourers, comparatively speaking. In a West India plantation there is not only the agricultural detail to attend to, but there is the manufacturing system; and there is another peculiarity in West India cultivation, which causes a great demand for labour at particular seasons, that the harvest and the seed-time fall together; and in a tropical climate weeds grow very quick upon the slightest occurrence of moisture, with an ardent sun; weeds grow with a prodigious rapidity, that is inconceivable here, and we are also a good deal overrun with noxious grasses, that require a vast deal of labour to eradicate.

2972. Do

2972. Do the proprietors live upon the estates, or are the estates managed by attorneys?—The proprietors resident in the country live upon their estates.

2973. Are those estates managed with more economy than the other estates, where the proprietors do not reside?—It depends a great deal upon the prudence of the proprietor; he may think himself a very good agriculturist, when he is not so; but at all events he has a satisfactory supervision of his expenditure.

2974. Do you think it would be a beneficial circumstance for the island, if the proprietors generally resided upon their estates?—Most undoubtedly it would; it would add very much to the improvement of the state of society.

2975. Are you of opinion that sugar under those circumstances could be produced at a lower cost?—It might certainly. A resident proprietor probably would not require the same number of persons under him; he would not have to pay the wages of a managing attorney, and so on.

2976. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] How is the attorney paid?—The old system of the island was to pay the attorney a guinea for every 15 cwt. of sugar; that is, a guinea in the estimation of the colony, which was 38 *s.* currency. But, latterly, some plantations have been put under a different system in that respect, by giving six per cent. to an attorney upon the net proceeds as shown by the accounts at the end of the year.

2977. Mr. *Howard.*] Do you make use of steam-engines in the manufacture of sugar?—We have about six or seven steam-engines in the island which are used for grinding sugar; the rest are windmills.

2978. Mr. *Barclay.*] What would be the effect upon the labourers if a considerable diminution in the price of sugar took place in England?—The labourer would be compelled of necessity to submit to a reduction of wages; otherwise he could not subsist, or he must leave the country.

2979. Then the immediate effect of a fall of price here, would be to reduce the wages of the labourers in fact?—Certainly; there is no other source of salvation in that case; the planter could not go on cultivating unless he could lower his wages.

2980. In the event of any great reduction in the price of sugar here, either cultivation must go out or the wages of labour would be very much reduced?—Yes; the labourer would be inconvenienced even more than the proprietors.

2981. *Chairman.*] At the present rate of wages, do you consider the labourers in Antigua well off?—I should say they are.

2982. Are they enabled for the most part to save money?—They are.

2983. Are they prudent in their habits?—I think, generally, they are so; quite as much as could reasonably be expected; independently of the advantages I have mentioned of the little spot of ground, they have the right accorded to them by the proprietor, of raising any quantity of stock, feathered poultry, any quantity of pigs, goats, sheep, rabbits, and all manner of things; and that is the chief source of their wealth, if it can be so called.

2984. Did those labourers, whom you spoke of as having purchased property, get the money for those purchases by savings from their wages?—Undoubtedly; those were the means generally.

2985. At what rate did they purchase the land?—Pasture-land, that is, land without any depth of soil, sells in the island at about 12*l.* currency per acre; but when it comes to any minute subdivision, the cost would be increased.

2986. You stated that, in your opinion, the value of property in Antigua has not fallen off, since emancipation?—Only to the degree I mentioned. I think it has somewhat fallen off; but, on the other hand, other lands which have been thrown out of cultivation have been brought into cultivation again.

2987. Should you say that the particular case you mentioned, in which there had been a diminution of two-fifths in the value, was an exception to the general rule with regard to the value of property at present, as compared with the value in time of slavery?—No; I should say that is about a fair representation of the state of things.

2988. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You have stated that you can get produce as cheap now as you could during slavery; do you confine yourself in that statement to Antigua?—I have not borne testimony to anything but to Antigua.

2989. Mr. *Howard.*] Has not land in the neighbourhood of towns much increased in value?—I think it has. The towns are increasing in size, and many of the labourers from the country have come to reside in the towns, and therefore lots of land are more saleable, and at a higher price now than they formerly were.

Veneris, 3° *die Junii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Charles Howard.
Mr. Bankes.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Hawes.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Godson.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

G. Estridge, Esq.

3 June 1842.

George Estridge, Esq. called in; and Examined.

2990. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the colony of St. Kitt's?—I am.

2991. For what length of time did you reside in the colony?—About 11 years.

2992. When did you leave the colony?—About 12 months ago.

2293. What was your occupation when there?—I was there as a planter.

2994. Were you the proprietor of any estates there, or had you the charge of any estates?—I had the charge of one or two estates, particularly the one on which I lived, of the name of Taylor's Estate.

2995. Belonging to Mr. Taylor?—Yes.

2996. What was the extent of the estate?—About 140 acres.

2997. Did you reside upon it?—I did.

2998. What is the population of the colony of St. Kitt's?—About 21,000.

2999. What is the extent of the island?—The extent is 43,727 acres; 63 square miles.

3000. Is the whole of that extent available for cultivation?—No, there is a great deal out of cultivation; but none, I think, has been thrown out of cultivation since the commencement of freedom, except one estate; a good deal of land, however, has been abandoned at different times from its not paying the expenses of cultivation, or other causes.

3001. Has the whole island been cultivated?—No; all the interior is mountain and forest.

3002. Primitive wood?—Yes.

3003. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you state the proportions of cultivated and uncultivated land?—I cannot say exactly; Colquhoun states that about 30,000 acres were in cultivation when he wrote; but I should think not above 20,000 now.

3004. *Chairman.*] What are the staple products of the island?—Sugar, entirely.

3005. Have you the sole and entire management of that estate?—Yes.

3006. How many acres of cane land had you upon that estate?—It was all cane land, every acre of it.

3007. Had you no land in reserve for pasture?—No; pieces were thrown out occasionally for pasture; but some land was subsequently rented to remedy that inconvenience.

3008. Have you, in St. Kitt's, any contract law to regulate the relations between labourer and employer?—No.

3009. Have you any laws with regard to the occupation of premises by the labouring population?—No. When I left the island they were talking of passing a law to transfer to the magistrates the power of ejecting the negroes.

3010. What laws are there for the settlement of any disputes which may arise between the labourers and their masters?—There is a law giving the chief judge, or the senior assistant judge present, the power of deciding all cases under 10*l.*, and two magistrates can decide any case that is under 4*l.*; those laws are quite enough.

3011. Are those stipendiary magistrates?—Not necessarily; the stipendiary magistrates sit with the others.

3012. Do you mean that the unpaid magistrates are not competent to act without the presence of a stipendiary magistrate?—Yes, they may act without, but

but the stipendiary magistrates never act by themselves, unless casually together; they always sit with the others.

3013. Have you found practically that the law to which you have adverted, as administered by the magistrates, has been sufficient for the settlement of all disputes?—I think so.

3014. How many stipendiary magistrates are there in St. Kitt's?—Four.

3015. Has it been the custom of the labourers upon the estate to occupy houses and grounds upon the estate?—Yes.

3016. Upon what terms do they occupy their houses?—Upon the condition that they are to work upon the estate.

3017. Has rent in any instance been paid by the labourers?—In no instance.

3018. What quantity of ground in each case is occupied by the labourer with his house?—As much as they wish; it is the custom to give them cane pieces in rotation, which they occupy for a year or two; then they are given up, and are afterwards planted with canes, and other cane pieces are given to them. That arrangement is beneficial for both parties, for the change of product benefits the land, and the change of the land benefits the negro.

3019. You mean that a piece of land usually cultivated in canes is allotted to him to grow his provisions upon?—Yes.

3020. Not to grow canes upon it?—No.

3021. What quantity of land do you give to each labourer with his house?—It is not measured, but they have as much as they require; generally 10 or 15 acres amongst them.

3022. No money is paid for the occupation?—No.

3023. In the event of the labourer ceasing to work for you, is it your custom to eject him from those premises?—Ceasing to work, he would leave the premises; of course he would not be allowed to remain there if he did not work. But a planter would act with moderation in those cases. If he absented himself only for a few days it would be overlooked.

3024. Is it the custom in St. Kitt's to eject the labourer when he ceases to work upon the estate?—Yes.

3025. Is it your opinion that it would be expedient to adopt a system of payment of rent for the labourers occupying the premises?—I do not myself think so. That question is very much mooted in St. Kitt's, but I do not myself like it; I think it would lead to emigration.

3026. Why should you think that a system of payment of rent on the part of the labourer would lead to emigration?—If we had to receive rent from them, we should have to pay them higher wages, and we are afraid that the day before the rent became due at the end of the month, they would go to another island, and thus it would be a double loss to us; but some think it would be a good plan.

3027. Might it not have a tendency, by giving them a more secure tenure of the property, to inspire them with a feeling of local attachment, and make them less willing to migrate or to wander?—I think not; it would only be a monthly tenure. I think a feeling of local attachment would not arise from such a short tenure.

3028. Have you had occasion to resort to ejectment?—Yes, two or three times, but never without previous threatenings and ample notice.

3029. In cases where ejectment is resorted to, what notice is given to the person so ejected?—No notice is necessary, I believe, by law.

3030. You eject on the instant?—I believe they are at liberty to eject on the instant, but there is always a feeling of forbearance.

3031. What is the practice with regard to any crops of the labourer which may be growing on the land he occupies, at the time of the ejectment?—That would depend upon circumstances; I would wish to mention that the laws that obtain in this country are now the laws of St. Kitt's; Peel's Acts, as they are termed, which gives the magistrates summary and inexpensive jurisdiction, and the labourers are never backward in complaints if they fancy themselves aggrieved. If their grounds were injured or destroyed unjustly, compensation would be awarded to them; but we are very much afraid of emigration now.

3032. Mr. *Hawes*.] Do you mean that the labouring population of St. Kitt's dread leaving the island?—No; the planters are so afraid of the labouring population leaving St. Kitt's, that they act with great moderation.

3033. *Chairman*.] In what manner do you make contracts for the hiring of labourers?—By general understanding. For instance, it is understood that a

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stranger may come and work. If he goes into the great gang, it is understood that he is to receive the pay of the great gang; and he will work for a week, or for two or three days, and he will receive his payment at the end of the week. If he goes to the second gang, he receives the pay of the second gang.

3034. What is the system with your own labourers on the estate?—They perfectly understand the wages for the different work, and meet without anything being said to them.

3035. Do not you make any express contract with them?—No, unless for a job.

3036. Neither with those who live upon the estate, or those who come accidentally?—No.

3037. How many classes of labourers are there?—There are three, the great gang, and the second gang, and children; but there are very few children at present.

3038. What is the distinction between the great gang and the second gang?—The great gang are the able-bodied people; we pay them two bits, $8\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $9d.$ a day; the second gang receive $6d.$ a day. Strangers are paid $2d.$ to $3d.$ a day more than residents on an estate, in consideration of having no houses, grounds, and stock there.

3039. Mr. *Hawes.*] Do you pay them in money?—Always in money.

3040. Not in paper?—No.

3041. *Chairman.*] What is the distinction between the two classes?—Simply being more or less able-bodied; but the second gang consists chiefly of boys and girls.

3041.* Their occupation is the same?—Yes, generally, but the second gang cannot hole, which is the hardest work.

3042. What is the pay of the children, the third class?—The children generally work about three hours in a day, two in the morning, and an hour in the evening; they are paid $1s.$ a week, but they do little or nothing; it is merely to breed up agricultural labourers, that we strive to unite some industry with their schooling.

3043. Do the labourers work by the day, or by the task, or by the job?—Generally speaking, by the day, throughout the island; particular works are done by the job.

3044. Does that system of working by the day apply both to labourers who reside upon the estate and to strangers who come to aid them?—Yes.

3045. How many hours' labour do you exact for a day's work?—Nine hours.

3046. At what hour of the day is the work commenced?—At sunrise, and it ends at sunset; there is very little difference in the length of the day there.

3047. Was that practice the same during the time of slavery?—Yes, I think so. They used to work later in crop time, and so now they work later in crop time; if they work additional hours they get pay for it, and if they are absent two or three hours, a penny an hour is deducted for it.

3048. The number of hours' work for a day's work is the same as it was during slavery?—Yes, I think so.

3049. Do you think the quantity of effective work obtained during those hours now, is greater or less than it was during slavery?—Certainly much less; we have not the effective labour we had when I first went to the island.

3050. You mean that you have not now the same means of enforcing labour which you had then?—No; and they do their work much more lazily, but they are capable of very brisk periods of work, and they work very well at different times.

3051. You find that the labour generally is less continuous now than it was during slavery?—Yes.

3052. How many labourers had you upon your estate during the last three years of slavery?—About 160.

3053. Did that number continue during the period of apprenticeship?—Yes, with the exception of children that were made free, who amounted to about 20.

3054. How many labourers have you had upon your estate since the commencement of freedom?—We have as many labourers upon the estate as during the time of slavery, but the labour seems to melt away in freedom. This is the estate's book which I received two or three days ago, which will give the Committee a better idea than any description of mine can do of the working of the people (*producing the same*). It is the journal of the estate; it shows the number that come in on Monday, and the number that come in on Tuesday, and on each day during the week.

3055. In

3055. In what manner do you find the labour less continuous now than you did during the period of slavery?—They come to their work less regularly than they used during slavery, or the apprenticeship, when they were compelled to work, from the Monday morning till the Friday; but now some come in on Monday, some on Tuesday, some on Wednesday; some that come in on Monday will take days and half days and quarter days during the week.

3056. What holidays did you allow the labourers during slavery?—There were no holidays by law. Some estates used to allow one or two to go away every day for a holiday, and it used to go through the gang in that way alphabetically; the two first would go away on Monday, and the two second on Tuesday, and so on.

3057. How many days do you find that any labourer is willing to work now in the course of a week?—Five days, and sometimes six. There are some labourers upon the estates that work most steadily; it is impossible to have better workmen than some of them are.

3058. In the event of a labourer absenting himself for several days in a week without permission, have you any mode of punishing him?—There was a system adopted, about two years ago, of charging rent for their houses and grounds for the time they were absent, if they were absent for any length of time, and that was generally preferred to ejectment, as not leading to any bad consequences. If the man had not worked on the estate for a week or fortnight, you would summon him before the magistrate, and the magistrate would make him pay the fair value of the house and grounds he occupied during the time he was absent from the estate.

3059. Under what law was that system adopted?—There was no particular law.

3060. Was it a power exercised by the magistrate for the sake of what he conceived to be the ends of justice?—Yes, unquestionably, on the principle of reasonable compensation.

3061. When you were in the island, had that system become general?—It was becoming general.

3062. Was it universal?—It was, or becoming so.

3063. Was the effect of it found to be beneficial?—Certainly, very beneficial; to the master it was a trifling compensation for advantages enjoyed and abused by the labourer, but the chief benefit was its indirectly restraining the labourer from erratic habits, into which, I must confess, he has been in a great measure led by the pernicious practice of giving strangers higher wages than the labourers located on estates.

3064. What was the amount of rent or fine, per day, that was required to be paid?—They would not charge it by the day; they would charge it by the week.

3065. What was the amount of the fine per week?—I should think at the rate of two or three dollars a month.

3066. And the effect of that system has been to render labour more continuous?—I think so; they were more apprehensive of leaving their work than they were before; I have received myself half a dollar for a week.

3067. Upon the whole, you say that, the number of labourers remaining much the same, you find that the effective labour generally upon the estate is diminished since the time of freedom?—Yes, certainly.

3068. Has the produce of the estate fallen off since the commencement of freedom?—No, it has not; but it is difficult to judge as it is very subject to dry weather, so that in one year it makes a large crop, and in another year a very small one; the largest crop that has been made the last few years during slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, has been in freedom; the crop of 1839–40; it was, however, planted the last year of apprenticeship, though taken off in freedom.

3069. You do not find at this moment any deficiency of labour?—No, I do not suffer from it, but then the weather has been very dry for the last two years.

3070. Had you any redundancy of labour during the latter years of slavery?—No redundancy.

3071. Have you had any immigration into the colony of late years?—Yes, we have immigrants from Nevis, which is only four miles from St. Kitt's, St. Kitt's being a much richer island than Nevis; and we have some slaves that absconded from St. Martin's, and from Anguilla we have received some, but not in proportion to our losses by emigration.

3072. To

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3072. To what extent has immigration taken place into St. Kitt's?—I should think we may have received 200 immigrants in all; but they go and come.

3073. In the whole period since freedom commenced?—Yes.

3074. To what extent has emigration taken place from the island?—It is supposed that about 500 have left us.

3075. Where have they gone to?—To Demerara and Trinidad.

3076. Why did they go?—From the love of change; or they were seduced away by the promises of higher wages.

3077. Agents came to seek for supplies of labour?—Yes.

3078. Is the system still going on?—Not so much of late, but it is still going on.

3079. Mr. *Barclay.*] Have any of them returned?—Many have returned; but some only as decoys, to unsettle and lead away others.

3080. Mr. *Hawes.*] Are there any laws which impede the emigration of labourers from the island?—Yes, impede but not prevent; a Deportation Act was passed, but it was refused here.

3081. There is no certificate required?—Yes; every one leaving the island, whether he is white or black, must put up his name for 21 days previously in the secretary's office, and afterwards obtain a certificate, for which he pays a dollar. The object of this is to prevent him leaving the island, clandestinely, with debts unpaid.

3082. If his name is put up, and he is in debt, are any steps taken to prevent his leaving the island?—Yes.

3083. Are there any parochial regulations?—None that would prevent his leaving the island.

3084. A labourer leaving the island is required to put up his name; if he is in debt, would he be prevented going till his debts were paid?—He would.

3085. What steps would be taken, supposing he was in debt, to prevent his leaving the island?—He would be subject to arrest, the same as a white person would be.

3086. *Chairman.*] It is stated in some of the papers laid before Parliament that a system has been adopted in St. Kitt's of making out false accounts of debt against labourers who have evinced an intention to emigrate, with a view to prevent their so going, have you ever known any instance of that?—I never heard of any.

3087. In page 142 of the papers relative to British Guiana, it is stated by the emigration agent, "On returning to St. Kitt's we proceeded immediately to take the coals on board; and that I might not be charged with disrespect to the authorities, I called on the officer who administered the Government, the Hon. Mr. Crook, President of the Council. My reception was cold and repulsive, and the conversation which followed sufficiently proved how little favour I had to expect in that quarter, as it ended in a threat to seize the vessel, because coals had been purchased for her previous to bond being given at the Colonial Secretary's office, and a strong expression of his determination to allow no person to leave the island until all the forms required by law had been fully complied with. We waited a few days in the expectation of the labourers coming, whose names had been enrolled; only a few of them, however, came, and said that false accounts had been made out against them for moneys which they did not owe, in order to prevent their going away, but that they would follow the vessel over to Nevis, and proceed with us from thence; and that the others, who also intended coming, were deterred from doing so, owing to a report which had been circulated that the steamer would not take them to Demerara, but to some remote part of the colony." Have you any knowledge, or have you ever heard of such circumstances as those?—I never heard anything of the kind.

3088. The date of this account is November the 19th, 1841; were you then in the colony?—No; I should think it is perfectly false. The negroes might be induced to state those circumstances without their having happened. Mr. Crook is a gentleman of high character, and I am sure would not exceed his duty.

3089. You observe that the passage read alludes to "the forms required by law;" are those forms numerous, and are they such as to impose any difficulty upon persons wishing to emigrate?—There is nothing but putting up their

their names, and after that they may go as soon as they please. The only object is to prevent their leaving in debt, and leaving their old and infirm, or young, without protection or without means of support.

3090. Have you ever known instances of labourers who were desirous of emigrating, being prevented so doing in consequence of the unwillingness of the colony to lose their labour?—Not prevented unfairly.

3091. Have you ever known any instances of their being prevented at all?—I do not remember any. But unquestionably they have often been taken for debt.

3092. On the whole, your supply of labour is sufficient for your purposes of cultivation?—I should say there were labourers, but not labour enough.

3093. Has the general produce of the island fallen off in any way since the commencement of freedom?—I do not think it has upon the whole. It has upon some estates, upon the more fertile estates.

3094. Have the exports of sugar diminished since the commencement of freedom?—No, I think not. I have an account of the quantities of sugar annually imported from the island of St. Kitt's, during each of the last ten years, from which it will appear that though they are less this last year, which was a very dry year, in 1839 and 1840 they were very considerable.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

AN ACCOUNT of the quantities of Sugar annually Imported from the Island of *St. Christopher*, during each of the last Ten Years.

	Cwts.
Year 1832	80,602
— 1833	80,390
— 1834	105,355
— 1835	87,614
— 1836	64,810
— 1837	73,270
— 1838	93,597
— 1839	135,548
— 1840	94,390
— 1841	63,936

Inspector-General's Office, Custom-House, London, 31 May 1842.

W. Irving.

3095. It appears by that official account that the export of sugar in 1839 was 135,448 cwt., and that in 1841 it was 63,936 cwt.; what was the cause of that difference?—The first was the most favourable year we have had for 20 years, in consequence of excessive rains.

3096. Was the state of the weather the cause of the falling off in 1841?—Yes, principally.

3097. You state that the produce has fallen off upon some estates; what has been the cause of that diminution upon those particular estates?—It is from the diminution of labour, I think. I will give in a statement of the estate which bears my name, which is one of the best in the island, showing the crops for a number of years, and that will show how it has fallen off during the state of freedom.

3098. Is that the estate upon which you resided?—No; it is an estate in which I am most deeply interested. This is a statement showing the annual expenses of Estridge's estates, with the crops of sugar, rum, and molasses, and the cost.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

ESTRIDGE ESTATES.

STATEMENT showing the Annual Expenses of Estates in *St. Kitt's*, with the Crops of Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, and the Cost of the Sugar Crop after allowing for the Rum and Molasses.

Year.	Island Expenses.	Stores from hence.	Gross Expenses.	Value of Rum and Molasses.	Sugar Crop.	Cost of Production.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	*Puns.* £. s. d.	*Hhds.*	£. s. d.
1829	1,707 - 10	1,259 10 5	2,966 11 3	172 - 940 18 6	252 & 11 p^{d} to Customs	2,025 12 9
1830	1,188 2 8	700 1 7	1,888 4 3	198 - 1,019 16 10	205 & 6 - ditto -	868 7 5
1831	1,495 4 10	1,091 5 3	2,586 10 1	202 - 985 4 10	184 & 5 - ditto -	1,061 5 3
1832	1,423 19 10	888 14 1	2,312 13 11	188 - 951 10 11	178 & 8 - ditto -	1,361 3 -
1833	1,527 5 11	704 13 5	2,231 19 4	181 - 968 16 5	159 & 6 - ditto -	1,263 2 11
1834	1,236 11 8	429 4 9	1,665 16 5	155 - 822 6 3	194 & 6 - ditto -	843 10 2
1835	1,450 - 1	432 6 7	1,882 6 8	183 - 1,109 8 9	157 & 6 - ditto -	772 17 11
1836	1,517 13 3	702 2 8	2,219 15 11	186 - 1,222 6 1	180 & 6 - ditto -	997 9 10
1837	1,722 4 4	699 - 11	2,421 5 3	202 - 1,397 17 11	207 & 6 - ditto -	1,023 7 4
1838	1,734 14 7	483 14 4	2,218 8 11	211 - 1,705 13 11	208 & 8 - ditto -	512 15 -
1839	2,080 - 2	975 9 11	3,055 8 1	161 - 732 - 5	171 - - - -	2,323 7 8
1840	1,982 15 4	629 3 -	2,611 18 4	130 - 868 6 7	137 - - - -	1,743 11 9
1841	- Expenditure not yet ascertained.			Crop received -	100 & 2 t^{s}	

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Taking the hogsheads of sugar to weigh 15 cwt. net, and excluding from the calculation the sugar paid to the Customs for 4 ½ per cent., the annual cost of the production of the sugar crop will be as follows:

				s.	d.				s.	d.	
1829	-	-	about	10	8	per cwt.	1835	- -	about 6	6	per cwt.
1830	-	-	-	5	7	—	1836	- -	- 7	4	—
1831	-	-	-	11	7	—	1837	- -	- 6	7	—
1832	-	-	-	10	3	—	1838	- -	- 3	3	—
1833	-	-	-	10	7	—	1839	- -	- 18	-	—
1834	-	-	-	5	9	—	1840	- -	- 17	-	—

And, supposing the expenditure for 1841 to be the same as for 1840, the cost of production will be more than 1 *l.* 3 *s.* per cwt.

3099. Where is that estate?—In Nichola town; about 11 miles from where I live.

3100. Is it a fertile estate?—Very fertile and very seasonable.

3101. What do you consider to be the principal causes of the diminished produce which that return shows?—The falling off of labour.

3102. Is it from that estate that emigration took place?—Not from that estate, but in all that parish there are great complaints of want of labour.

3103. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is it an upland or a lowland estate?—Both.

3104. *Chairman.*] What is the cause of the diminution of labour upon the estate?—There is no particular cause beyond the disinclination of the people to work continuously which exists every where; but we feel it less upon the small estates than they do upon the large estates, where they require so much more labour every day.

3105. The system you have described of exacting rent during the absence of the labourer from work, although productive of benefit to a certain degree is not sufficient?—I am not certain that it has taken place there. I know that it has taken place upon several estates, and I know that I have adopted it; but whether it has been done there I cannot say.

3106. Do you think that if a law were passed assimilating the practice with regard to labourers to that which is pursued in England, and which has been adopted in Antigua, that would obviate the difficulty which you find with regard to labour not being continuous?—I am not aware that any law has passed in Antigua similar to the law of England. The law passed in Antigua which we have not is a contract law.

3107. If you had such a law would that obviate the difficulties which you experience?—I do not think it would. I think that if the negroes were dissatisfied with the contract after having made one, they would not enter into it a second time. I suppose it would be for six months or a twelve month, or something of that kind. If you got them to enter into it for six months, and they did not like it they would not enter into it a second time.

3108. Would

3108. Would not they find the necessity of labour for their own support?—Yes, but there are so many who would be glad to hire them by the day, that a contract law would be virtually nugatory, as a general system, throughout the island. But we should be glad of a contract law, because it might be entered into or not as we pleased.

3109. You have stated that your supply of labour in the island generally is sufficient in point of quantity, and that all you have to complain of is the want of its being more continuous?—Yes, there are labourers, but there is not labour enough.

3110. Therefore if some law were passed which had a tendency to make it more continuous, that would obviate the difficulty of which you complain?—Yes; but there are two parties concerned. Whether the negro would enter into the contract is to be considered; if he entered into it, and did not like it, he would not enter into it a second time.

3111. Supposing such a law to be in operation, would not the negro be compelled, for the sake of obtaining his livelihood, to enter into a contract?—I may think so; but if he objected as able to obtain his livelihood without it, what then?

3112. How could he maintain himself if he did not do so?—As at present; but if there were a contract law, compelling him to work under contract, it would be an excellent thing.

3113. Compelling him to work under contract if he worked at all?—If generally adopted throughout the West Indies it would be a very serviceable law.

3114. Notwithstanding those difficulties, you state that your exports of sugar, since the commencement of freedom, have kept up to what they were during slavery?—Yes.

3115. Have the imports increased?—They have.

3116. What has been the nature of the increase in the imports?—Dry goods, chiefly; but in flour and other articles of consumption.

3117. By dry goods, you mean articles contributing to the comfort and luxury of the negroes?—Yes.

3118. Have the revenues of the island increased since freedom commenced?—Yes; but we have no import duty, to which there is an objection, I believe, in this country.

3119. In what way have the revenues of the island increased?—In a tonnage duty, licences for selling things, &c.; but the revenues are unequal to the expenditure of the island without an income tax, which we have had for some years.

3120. Is the soil of St. Kitt's rich?—It is capable of great productiveness.

3121. But the climate is very uncertain?—Yes.

3122. How many years will the canes there bear ratooning?—Some planters will not ratoon at all; others seldom more than one year; occasionally you may have a second ratoon, but very rarely.

3123. Is that on account of the want of fertility of the soil?—Yes; the land does not seem strong enough to bear ratooning.

3124. The general system is to grow from fresh plants?—Yes.

3125. Do you use manure?—As much as we can get.

3126. Do you import manure?—Some has been imported from this country.

3127. Have you machinery in extensive use?—We have some steam-engines; but windmills are generally enough to grind the crop that is made; the great difficulty is to get the crop above ground.

3128. Do you use the plough?—Yes; they have an excellent system of manuring there by green dressings, which is more prevalent in St. Kitt's and Nevis than in any other island; it is by the use of a very fine plant, called pigeon-peas; it is a plant that grows about four or five feet in height in two or three months, it is very bushy, and it is cut down and bedded in the ground very much as if you were to plough in tares; besides, it fills the island with food.

3129. Then you plough that plant into the ground?—Yes, it can be ploughed in, but many planters do not like the plough, because they think it exposes the ground too much to the sun, and the negroes do not like the plough because they get higher wages when they hole.

3130. Then the plough is not in general use with you?—In general, but by no means universal, use.

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3131. If it were more extensively used, would it not save a good deal of manual labour?—I think not; the soil is generally light and easily hoed.

3132. What do you think has been the change in the general condition and character of the negro, since emancipation, in St. Kitt's?—I think they are better off, perhaps happier, because they are not subject to constraint as they were before; but they were always well attended to, and they had plenty of religious establishments of every kind.

3133. Was that the case before the time of freedom?—Yes.

3134. Were the negroes generally Christians before freedom?—Generally; but there is much more education now than there was, and more chapels have been built. I have never seen the Sunday observed as it has ever been in my recollection in St. Kitt's. As we passed Gravesend, coming to this country, we saw two windmills flying on Sunday, and we could not help remarking that that could not have happened in St. Kitt's.

3135. Have those chapels been built by grants from the Colonial Government, or by individuals?—By neither; by societies here; the Moravians and Wesleyans.

3136. Societies in the island or at home?—In both; the parent societies are here.

3137. Mr. *Hawes.*] Missionary societies?—Yes.

3138. *Chairman.*] Have there been any grants on the part of the Government of the colony for the purpose of religious or general education?—None; none were necessary.

3139. Have any efforts been made by individual proprietors to furnish means of education for their negroes?—By schools or estates.

3140. Mr. *Hawes.*] Has the Mico charity any schools in the island?—None.

3141. *Chairman.*] Are those abundant means of education and religious instruction entirely provided by missionary societies?—By no means; as the church is very active and zealous; but the dissenters have done the most; I believe the practice is with the Moravians to teach the children to read gratuitously, but if writing and ciphering be added, they are charged 1*d.* a week; there are two large schools of the Church of England in the town; I think they pay 3*d.* a week there.

3142. Then it is the practice, both with regard to the Church of England schools and missionary schools, that the negro is called upon to pay towards the advantage of educating his children?—Only for writing and ciphering; they pay a trifle if they write and cipher, but for reading and oral instruction they are charged nothing. It is a good principle; they value more what they pay for.

3143. Mr. *Hawes.*] That is common both to the schools of the establishment and the schools of the missionaries?—Yes.

3144. *Chairman.*] Do you find that they are willing to make that payment?—I believe so; they are anxious to get instruction; the payment is a mere nothing.

3145. Do you find that the moral and religious condition of the negroes has improved since emancipation?—There is hardly time for that; I think they were always a good, orderly, sober race of people. They say there is the vice of the climate there, but I do not think there is more of it there than here; I mean promiscuous intercourse.

3146. Has the number of marriages increased?—Yes, I think more are married; there was considerable difficulty about marriages in time of slavery.

3147. That difficulty is now removed?—It is.

3148. Will you explain what was the nature of the difficulty you refer to?—The negroes were not married in time of slavery, because they were considered as property, and the families might at one time have been separated; that, however, was not the case while I was in the island, for the law had been passed throughout the West Indies to prevent the husband and wife being sold away from each other; but anterior to that they might have been, and I suppose that was the reason why marriages did not take place among the negroes.

3149. Can you state in what ratio the number of marriages has increased since the commencement of freedom?—I cannot; there was great difficulty about the Marriage Act sent from this country, which was, that we should legalise all retrospective marriages that had been made by dissenters; for when the Church of England would not marry negroes in slavery, the dissenters did very

very often; and those marriages not being good in law, they wished us here to pass an Act in the island to make those marriages legal; but there was considerable difficulty in that, because we found there were double, and even, in some cases, treble marriages. The negroes had become dissatisfied with one another, or had been guilty of adultery, and they would separate and form fresh connexions and get married again, and in some cases we found they had been married three times. We did not in that case understand which marriage we should legalise; if we legalised the first marriage we might destroy existing connexions, and if we legalised the last marriage we might destroy the legitimacy of the first children. The marriages were solemnised by the dissenters from good motives, to supply the deficiency with respect to a class whom the Church would not marry; but still they were not good in law; and perhaps this was the chief reason with the negroes for being married by them.

3150. Mr. *Howard.*] Did the ministers of the Church of England refuse to marry the negroes?—They did for a long time during slavery, throughout the West Indies.

3151. *Chairman.*] Then you did not pass the Marriage Act as required?—No; we passed an Act, which is now at home, legalising all marriages which were single, where the parties had never separated, and we have left those that had married two or three times to their fate; if there is any question about those marriages, the parties concerned must settle it.

3152. Are the wages you pay now higher than when freedom commenced?—Yes, we paid 6*d.* a day; now we pay 8½*d.* or 9*d.*

3153. What has been the cause of that increase?—The great demand for labour in the first year of freedom, owing to a good crop.

3154. Are the Committee to understand that an increase of the wages took place in the first year of freedom, in consequence of the great competition for labour, which you consider to have been caused by the abundance of the crop in that year?—Yes.

3155. And the wages have continued at that high rate ever since?—Yes.

3156. At the rate of wages now paying to your labourers, do you find that they are able to make considerable savings, and to enrich themselves?—Very considerably; I have often sent to England for considerable invoices for them. One negro had 75 dollars' worth of goods, and four begged me to write for watches for them.

3157. Have you found that they are disposed to devote those savings to the purchase of land?—There is no land for them to purchase; they may buy, here and there perhaps, small spots near the town.

3158. Do you mean that there is a combined understanding among the planters not to sell land to the negroes?—No; but no land had been sold when I left the island.

3159. Why not?—I cannot say.

3160. Is there an unwillingness to sell on the part of the planters, or an unwillingness to buy on the part of the negroes?—I have no doubt if a number of negroes had combined to buy an estate, they might have done so, if they had made a fair offer for it; but it would not do to sell portions of an estate; it would ruin the estate to sell to eight or ten negroes an acre each; no planter would do it.

3161. Amongst the wild and less fertile portions of the island which you have described, are there not parts which would be accessible to the negroes in the way of purchase, and which might prove desirable investments for them?—I dare say there are, but no land has been sold as yet; but if the planters found their estates growing unproductive, they would rather sell them to the negroes in parcels, than cultivate them at a loss.

3162. Are they growing unproductive?—One estate has been abandoned lately.

3163. When was that abandoned?—I had a letter from the proprietor the other day, in which he speaks of abandoning the estate.

3164. Does he state the reasons of his abandoning the estate?—He mentions from the difficulty of getting work; and says his only hope is from turning it into a pen.

3165. Mr. *Hawes.*] Have you any objection to state what that estate is?—The name is "Sadler's Estate;" it is three miles from Estridge's Estate.

3166. Is it far from the town?—It is very near Dieppe Bay.

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3167. Mr. *Barclay.*] What is the extent of it?—A large estate, but never very productive.

3168. Do you know the number of acres?—No; perhaps 200.

3169. Mr. *Howard.*] Who is the proprietor?—Mr. Parson.

3170. Is it mortgaged?—I believe not.

3171. *Chairman.*] Do not you consider the fact you have just stated, of the abandonment of that estate from a scarcity of labour, as somewhat inconsistent with the statement you have made as to the supply of labour, and the continued amount of produce in the island?—No, because this lies near a favourable district, near the Nichola Town district. There is a much greater demand for labour in that district than in other parts of the island; and the population is, I believe, not proportionably great there.

3172. Have you known any instances of negroes taking possession of land, in the way called squatting, upon any of the unclaimed parts of the island?—They cannot; there is no land unclaimed; all the land thrown out of cultivation is used as pasture.

3173. Did you not state that there was wild land and primitive forest in the island?—All that is divided among the estates.

3174. Are there any Crown lands?—No.

3175. Every part of that land is a portion of some estate?—It is.

3176. Are the laws sufficient to prevent any negro from taking possession of any spot upon that cultivated land?—The laws are sufficient, I believe; but we have no particular Act upon the subject at present. We had a Trespass Act, which has lately been disallowed, which would have provided for it expressly.

3177-8. Is it considered desirable in St. Kitt's to keep a certain portion of forest untouched and uncut, under the idea that it attracts moisture?—I do not know. Moisture is attracted to particular parts of the island. Whether it is by the attraction of the mountains, or of the forest, I cannot say. It is impossible to cut the wood up the mountain, it is so steep, and the wood is not valuable.

3179. Viscount *Howick.*] In some of the islands, has not it been supposed that the cutting of the wood upon the mountains has contributed to change the climate?—I have heard that; but I should think it never was tested in the West Indies.

3180. *Chairman.*] You do not know whether the forests in St. Kitt's are left standing for that reason?—I am sure they are not.

3181. Do you know of instances of negroes having applied for land, and been unable to get it?—I have not heard of any such applications; it would be soon known if a man was willing to sell land, but I do not think any one has been willing as yet to sell land.

3182. Do you know any instances of estates being abandoned?—Yes, I have mentioned one instance.

3183. Has any attempt been made to sell that estate?—I do not think the proprietor would sell it.

3184. Under this inability to buy land, in what way do the negroes employ the money they save?—They rent portions of land.

3185. To what extent?—In different parts of the island there is a great deal rented by the negroes; they take portions of it for a year or so.

3186. Do they rent the land in numbers combined or separately?—Separately.

3187. What amount of land does a negro take?—It depends upon his means of cultivation, upon the number of his family.

3188. What are the usual quantities taken?—I suppose from a few perches to an acre or so.

3189. At what rate of rent do they occupy that land?—It depends upon the productiveness of the land, or its situation as being near a town.

3190. What is the usual rent?—I cannot say; I have seen none in my neighbourhood rented in that way.

3191. Can you state the highest or the lowest rent paid?—I cannot say, with any certainty.

3192. For what purposes is this land occupied?—In growing provisions.

3193. Do they in any instance cultivate sugar upon those lands which they rent?—No, not a cane; negroes would never cultivate sugar of themselves, it requires such continuous and simultaneous labour, and the profits are too remote.

3194. Are those negroes who rent those lands independent of labour for their

their support?—I think they work occasionally upon the neighbouring estates. I think an estate is very glad to see a settlement of negroes of that kind near it. There is an estate that has not been cultivated for many years, adjoining Estridge's Estate; we should be very glad indeed to let it out to negroes.

3195. Why has that estate been out of cultivation?—It was not profitable; it has not been cultivated these many years, long before the termination of slavery.

3196. Was it from want of fertility?—No, it was rather too small, and it was difficult of access.

3197. Mr. *Hawes.*] They found that the productions could not be sold without an increased cost?—Yes; and on small estates the expenses are nearly as great as large estates.

3198. *Chairman.*] Has any attempt been made by the negroes to rent or to purchase that estate?—No; if they made the attempt, it would be conceded to them at once; it would give us a supply of labour for a large estate close by, where we want it.

3199. Mr. *Hawes.*] Has it been offered for sale?—It cannot be sold on account of the charges upon it in this country; but we would rent it to the negroes very readily.

3200. If it would be disadvantageous to the European capitalist, would it not be also disadvantageous to the negro?—The negro would rent it in parcels to grow provisions upon it.

3201. But, you say, it is difficult of access?—It is difficult of access for carts with hogsheads of sugar; but it may not be for a basket of provisions upon the negro's head; difficulty is relative.

3202. Has any effort been made to let it to the negroes?—Not any; but it is known that if they applied for it, they might have it.

3203. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the cultivation of an estate in St. Kitt's is cheaper or more expensive than it was during slavery?—It is more expensive; but that requires an explanation. During slavery we were obliged to feed the negroes; and I believe in other islands they gave the negroes large portions of land, and gave them a day in the week to work this land; but that was not done in St. Kitt's, as we had no land to spare, and so we were obliged to furnish food for the negroes ourselves. Now, many of the planters would not cultivate provisions; they thought it injured the land, and they, therefore bought corn-meal for the people. I did so myself; therefore I do not feel the increase of expense now so much as many do; but all those who cultivate provisions to feed the people have the extra expense of wages to add to their former expenses, with the simple exception of clothing; whereas I have but the difference between the present wages and the food and clothing formerly. This cessation of provision-planting in St. Kitt's on the part of the planters has thrown the supply of provisions for the island entirely on the labourers, and consequently has prodigiously enhanced the value of their grounds to them.

3204. Do you find now in the state of freedom that the aged and infirm negroes are taken care of by their relatives and friends?—Yes, I think so, when necessary, but they are permitted, as before, to live on the estates rent free, and have their land and the privilege of tethering stock, &c. I had 10 or 12 at Taylor's of that description; Friendly Societies, too, contribute to their support.

3205. Is there anything at all like a poor law in St. Kitt's?—Yes; we have two unions, where any person that is unable to work is taken care of.

3206. By whom?—By the unions, or poorhouses, established by an Act of the island; guardians are appointed, and a ticket granted by one of the guardians will give a person admittance to one of those establishments, where he will be taken care of, fed, and clothed.

3207. Do you mean that the guardians are a central authority for the regulation of the poor throughout the island, or is there a guardian of the poor in every parish?—There are four or five elected for each of those establishments, I think, by the different vestries. There is one union at Sandy Point, and one at Basterre; there are two in the island.

3208. What is the nature of those establishments?—Poorhouses for the support of the poor.

3209. Have you any other mode of relief but by admission to those houses?—There is no other legal mode of relief, no out-door relief, I believe.

3210. No parish payment in the shape of money to disabled persons?—No; by the Act of the island, I think, the guardians can raise what sum they like upon

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upon the parishes, but it has been found quite unnecessary, as in the establishment at Basterre, there are but few persons; and there never have been more than one or two in that of Sandy Point.

3210*. Then the relief of destitute persons by the guardians is rather an exception, and the general rule is, that the destitute are taken care of by their relations?—Yes, and by the estates; there are no beggars in the West Indies, and no poor but amongst respectable people reduced.

3211. Mr. *Godson*.] In the document you have put in there is a column which states the cost of production in the year 1838 to have been 3*s*. 3*d*. per cwt., and in the year 1841 you make it 23*s*. per cwt.; are the Committee to understand that the cost of production increased to the extent of 20 *s*. per cwt., between the year 1838 and the year 1841?—Yes, that is quite accurate.

3211*. In one of these columns it is stated that the cost of production in the year 1838 is only 512 *l*., and in that year there are 208 hogsheads, whereas in the next year there are only 171 hogsheads, and the cost of production is put at 2,323 *l*.; will you explain that?—The cost of production is made out by deducting the rum and molasses from the other expenses, and I suppose there was less to be deducted in the year 1839. The expenses throughout are very nearly alike. In the year 1838 the rum and molasses sold for 1,705 *l*. 13 *s*. 11 *d*., and in the year 1839 they sold for 732 *l*. –*s*. 5*d*.

3212. Then the explanation is, that the rum and molasses sold for more in that year?—Yes. I have here a statement showing the irregularity upon the estate to which I alluded, arising from dry weather.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

TAYLOR'S ESTATE.

YEAR.	Total Slaves.	Wages paid in Money.	Allowances in addition.	Total Cost of Labour.	Colonial Expenditure.	Supplies from Great Britain.	Cost of producing Crop.	Sums received for Rent.	Deduct Proceeds of Rum and Molasses.	Cost of producing Crop of Sugar.	Crop of Sugar produced.	Average Cost per Cwt.
											Cwts.	
1831 - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	97½ =	—
1832 - -	164	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	72 =	—
1833 - -	162	- -	- -	- -	929	- -	929	- -	234	695	33 = 584	23/10
1834 - -	160	- -	- -	- -	1,169	112	1,281	- -	557	724	111 = 1,840	7/11
	Apprentices.											
1 Jan. 1835 -	140	- -	- -	- -	1,122	282	1,404	- -	454	950	81 = 1,350	14/1
1836 - -	136	- -	- -	- -	1,109	152	1,261	- -	325	936	53 = 827	17/8
1837 - -	131	- -	- -	- -	1,137	311	1,448	- -	311	1,137	47 = 713	31/11
	407	- -	- -	- -	3,368	745	4,113	- -	1,090	3,023	181 = 2,890	63/8
	136	- -	- -	- -	1,123	248	1,371	- -	363	1,008	60 = 963	20/11
1 Jan. 1838 -	128	300	11	311	1,119	188	1,307	- -	577	730	70 = 1,099	13/3
1839 - -	- -	758	73	831	935	210	1,976	- -	1,355	621	167 = 2,558	4/10
1840 - -	- -	859	33	892	633	189	1,714	- -	266	1,448	43½ = 663	43/8
1841 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

3213. Will the paper you have just delivered in, explain the statement you made respecting the other estate?—Yes, I think so; the one is a dry weather estate, the other is not. Taylor's Estate is a dry weather estate; Estridge's Estate is situated in a most seasonable district.

3214. Will the two papers, taken together, explain the cost of production of those two estates?—Yes.

3215. In the estate-book which you have produced, there are certain marks; are they intended to indicate that some are absent before breakfast, some after breakfast, and some in the afternoon, and some all day long?—Yes.

3216. Are you at all aware whether a person will be absent in the afternoon, or what time he means to be absent, before he really goes away?—No; we are not aware of it; they leave for an hour at breakfast, and two hours at noon, and you cannot tell whether they will come back again.

3217. Supposing a person should attend before breakfast, and means to be away in the afternoon, is any notice given to you?—None whatever.

3218. Supposing he does not appear before breakfast, can you tell whether he is coming after breakfast?—We cannot.

3219. Then, as to the divisions of the day before breakfast, after breakfast, and

and after noon, you never have any notice whether the person will attend or not?—None whatever.

3220. Supposing he attends on one day, and is absent another day, does he give you any notice of it?—Not the least.

3221. The marks in the book, indicating those kind of absences, are the wages calculated, deducting those absences?—Yes; and being paid 9*d.* a day, and the day being nine hours, it is, as near as possible, 1*d.* an hour.

3222. There appear to be some who attend very regularly. There is a person of the name of Walton, who appears to have gained almost a fifth more than anybody else. Of course it may be taken that the names that have the highest sums against them are the more regular ones. What are the highest wages in a week paid to any one of those diligent persons?—They all receive two bits; 9*d.* sterling a day.

3223. Here is Walton, 5*s.* 0½*d.*?—Perhaps they were holeing that week, and they would receive 1*s.* 0½*d.* a day for that; or they may have been working extra hours at the mill, and then they receive more.

3224. It appears that there are some as low as 1*s.* 0½*d.*; would that be for one day's work?—I suppose so.

3225. Do the fathers and mothers receive the money paid to the children?—It is paid to the children themselves, unless they are very young, then it is paid to the parents. The youngest children receive 1*s.* a week; that is paid to the parents.

3226. Here is an entry, "Louisa, and eight children, 9*s.*" Is that the earning of one day?—No, that is for the week.

3227. That would be paid to the mother?—Yes.

3228. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] When was the law passed which requires that a negro should put up his name at the secretary's office before he quits the island?—It is an island law, in which the negroes became included by being made free.

3229. Have any steps been taken to prevent the agents of other colonies inducing the negroes to emigrate?—None since the rejection of the Deportation Act.

3230. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the general condition of the island, both with regard to the people and the property?—I think, upon the whole, good.

3231. You have no special complaint to make?—I think not. We feel the falling off of work in a good season, but not in a bad season. Emigration is our greatest evil.

3232. Upon the whole, the productiveness of the island has rather increased?—The last year shows a diminution, but the last year was a particularly dry year. I think, upon the whole, we have not been as yet materially affected one way or the other.

3233. Are there any general legislative measures which you desire to see passed, which require the assistance of the Home Government?—I do not think there are any at present.. I wish the Home Government would do what it can to discountenance emigration agents who unsettle our population, and injure us more than they benefit the colonies they come from.

3234. Has the value of property on the whole increased or decreased in the island?—I think it has decreased.

3235. Can you give the Committee any instance to show the decrease in the value of property?—No, I cannot.

3236. Has there been any extension of land brought into cultivation?—I believe one long-abandoned estate has been brought into cultivation.

3237. You do not require any assistance, by way of immigration?—In a good season, we should wish to have more labourers; but we, in fact, have labourers enough, if they would work steadily.

3238. Why should you wish for an increase?—There is a greater demand in a good season.

3239. With what object do you wish for it; is it that there is more work to be done in a good season than there are labourers to perform it?—Yes. In 1839 we had great difficulty in getting off the crop, and indeed a good deal perished.

3240. That applies only to a year of extraordinary fertility?—Yes.

3241. Is the administration of justice satisfactory to the labouring population?—I think so.

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3242. Is the establishment for the administration of justice expensive?—No I believe not at all expensive.

3243. Who presides in the Court of Chancery in the island?—The Governor is the Chancellor.

3244. Not a lawyer?—Not a lawyer.

3245. Who presides in the Court of King's Bench?—A gentleman of the name of Wattley.

3246. Is he a lawyer?—Yes; I do not think he was bred up in this country.

3247. A lawyer by professional education?—Yes.

3248. Who sit with him in the court?—Four assistant judges.

3249. Who are the assistant judges?—Three are planters, one a clergyman.

3250. Are questions decided by the whole, or by the single decision of the chief justice?—By the majority.

3251. Does it frequently happen that the majority is composed of laymen?—That has happened; but I think, generally speaking, there is a deference given to the opinion of the chief judge.

3252. *Chairman.*] Is the chief judge the only lawyer upon that bench?—He is; but the chief judge is not necessarily a lawyer; the late chief judge was not.

3253. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is that the case with reference to the Common Pleas also?—Yes.

3254. With regard to the inferior courts, who administers justice in those courts?—Magistrates appointed by the Governor.

3255. By the Governor solely?—By the Governor solely, subject to confirmation from home.

3256. Are they chiefly planters?—Planters, merchants, lawyers, special magistrates, in short the most respectable people that can be found.

3257. But questions are decided there also by the majority?—Yes.

3258. In the small debt courts, in which the labourers would have to bring their suits, are those courts presided over entirely by planters?—No; two magistrates can decide in cases under 4*l.*

3259. But the two magistrates may be two planters?—Yes, may be; but in a small community there is instant publicity, and thence justice.

3260. Is it indispensable that a special magistrate should be present?—No, I think not.

3261. Can you give the Committee any information as to the Petty Debt Act?—Under the Petty Debt Act the court of complaints is held at the court-house on the last Saturday of every month. The chief or senior assistant justice is to preside; sums not exceeding 10*l.* are recoverable. Then the schedule of fees is, for the judge, issuing summons, 3*s.*; judgment, 1*s.* 6*d.*; execution, 4*s.* 6*d.* In cases where the sum does not exceed 4*l.*, justices of the peace may act. On complaint, one justice is to issue a summons, and two to hear and adjudge cases; they sit twice a week. The fees are, for issuing summonses, the justice 3*s.*, marshal 4*s.* 6*d.*; for serving summons, and for execution, 9*s.*

3262. You have stated that the amount of effective labour has diminished since the commencement of freedom?—It has.

3263. Can you give the Committee any illustration of that opinion; for instance, supposing an estate had a certain number of labourers during slavery, and now has the same amount of labourers, can you state in what proportion the amount of effective labour has diminished?—They are not so regular in their attendance as they used to be. During slavery the whole number of labourers would come out upon Monday, and not leave off till Saturday or Friday during the apprenticeship; but now some come upon Monday, some upon Tuesday, and some upon Wednesday, and even of those that come upon Monday, some absent themselves for a whole day, and some for half a day, and so on, during the remainder of the week.

3264. When they do work, do they work as well?—I do not think they do; it is their object to tire themselves as little by working, and to receive as much money as possible.

3265. But, notwithstanding that, the produce of the island has not diminished?—Last year it diminished, but I do not think that diminution can be attributed to the people.

3266. But the general trade of the island has improved?—Yes.

3267. And the comforts of the labourers have improved?—Yes.

3268. And

3268. And there has been no material diminution in the value of the property in the island?—No, except from the increase of expense.

3269. Can you state by how much per cent?—Upon Taylor's estate in 1834, the expenses were 1,281 *l.*

3270. Can you state the expenses for the same amount of produce so as to compare things which are precisely similar?—I do not think the expense is at all dependant upon the amount of the crop, unless the crop is very great. In dry weather when you do not get above 40 or 50 hogsheads, you have to plant and to replant your ground very often, and if the weather is seasonable you have more canes to cut, so that there is the same amount of labour in the end. The only difference of expense would be in the sugar casks, export duty, &c. In 1835 it was 1,404 *l.*; in 1836, 1,261 *l.*; in 1837, it was 1,448 *l.*; in 1838, it was 1,307 *l.* Then in freedom in 1839, it was 1,976 *l.*; in 1840, it was 1,714 *l.* There would not have been that difference between 1,976 *l.* and 1,714 *l.*, but for some unusual expenses in 1839, but there is an excess of more than 350 *l.* in the expenses of 1840 over the average of the apprenticeship.

3271. How much is that upon a hogshead of sugar?—You must take the average of the hogsheads in order to make that out.

3272. Has there not been some increase in the expenditure with regard to buildings for the accommodation of the negroes since emancipation?—Yes, pretty generally; but this fell chiefly on the first year of freedom.

3273 With regard to procuring more continuous labour from the negroes have any measures been taken by the proprietors in the island?—No measures have been taken beyond what I mentioned; going before the magistrates when they did not work for some days.

3274. Are they paid their wages in money?—Yes.

3275. They are paid in no instance in paper?—No, I never heard of paper being given.

3276. Nor by provisions?—Nor by provisions.

3277. Then for the work to be done, as agreed for beforehand, they are paid money wages?—Yes.

3278. Without exception?—Without exception.

3279. Has that been always the case since the period of emancipation?—It has.

3280. You spoke of a Trespass Act which had been disallowed by the Home Government; will you state the nature of that Act?—There were several provisions in it; but it was enacted chiefly to prevent the unauthorised occupation of land, and to meet what was apprehended of freedom.

3281. Was there any law of that kind before in St. Kitt's?—No law of the kind could be necessary.

3282. Were the grounds of the disallowance stated?—They were stated by Lord Normanby.

3283. Do you recollect the grounds?—No, I do not. It is published in the Parliamentary Papers. Thus far I remember, on the grounds of harshness and injustice to the labourers.

3284. With regard to the Marriage Act, what were the grounds assigned in the island for refusing to pass the Act?—They could not pass the Act, for the reasons I mentioned, exactly as the Government here sent it out, on account of the double marriages.

3285. But the Act only went to legalise certain marriages?—The Act they wished us to pass was to legalise, retrospectively, marriages generally, but we refused to do that, on account of the double and treble marriages.

3286. Then did you return the Act so amended as to legalise single marriages?—Single marriages retrospectively.

3287. Was that passed?—I am not certain whether it has been passed; they were discussing it when I left the island. It must have come home before this time.

3288. Why is there any delay about passing the Act with reference simply to single marriages?—There was no delay on our part; whether there is a delay here I cannot say. We did not pass it as the Government sent it out, because we thought it unjust. Though suited to Demerara, it was not altogether so to an old colony where complicated and whimsical relations had grown up.

3289. Can you state the number of the labouring population in the island of

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St. Kitt's during slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom?—Yes; in 1830 there were 19,310.

3290. Are you speaking now of effective labourers?—No.

3291. What proportion of that number consisted of effective labourers, and what proportion of women and children and infirm?—I should think a third part consisted of effective labourers, not more, including women, who are as effective as the men. I have had a gang of women only holeing.

3292. How many were there during apprenticeship?—In the apprenticeship there were more effective, judging from the results, than in slavery, because the superabundance of labour, on some estates found its way on the Saturday to other estates that wanted it.

3293. What is the number in freedom?—I think much the same.

3294. Is there not a greater proportion of effective labourers out of the general number of labourers now than there used to be?—I do not think so.

3295. Mr. *Godson.*] Can you suggest any way in which labour might be made continuous, that is, can you suggest any reasonable way, by which you might secure a day's work when a day's work is required?—I cannot, unless you give us a contract law, compelling people to enter into contracts for labour; that would answer the purpose.

3296. Supposing a law were to pass that they should not work at all unless they worked the whole of the day; that they should work a day when they did come?—That might be done by the planter refusing to pay them unless they worked the whole day.

3297. Why is it that the planter submits to have some men come before breakfast and some after breakfast?—He is afraid of dismissing a labourer from his estate lest another should take him.

3298. Would further immigration into the island be a means of remedying that?—Yes; but I don't think we should like to pay the expense of immigration merely for the chance of that.

3299. Independently of the cost, supposing labourers were put upon the island, will not competition be the only remedy for the want of continuous labour?—Certainly, that would remedy it, putting more labourers upon the island.

3300. Assuming they were brought there, the only way to get continuous labour is in fact by competition?—Yes.

3301. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] But you do not think the present inconvenience is so great as to induce you to put yourselves to the expense to procure that competition?—No.

3302. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] You stated that the Governor presides in the Court of Chancery, who is not a lawyer; is not he assisted by any one who is a lawyer?—The chief judge sits by him; but it is merely to give him advice.

3303. You stated that the decisions of many of the magistrates were determined by the majority, and that many of them are planters; is much deference paid by them to the paid magistrates with whom they sit?—They are not lawyers any more than themselves.

3304. Is there greater deference paid to their opinions?—It depends upon their individual ability and knowledge; certainly not because they are stipendiaries.

3305. Are there any complaints in the island with respect to the administration of justice generally?—No, I think not; I think justice is administered very fairly.

3306. Mr. *Hawes.*] How is the chief justice paid?—He has a salary paid him by the island of 250 *l.* a year; and he receives 200 *l.* a year from the English Government for going to Anguilla; and he has fees which amount to about 150 *l.* a year.

3307. He has about 600 *l.* a year?—Yes; he is a master in chancery also, and he gets a little by that.

3308. Two hundred and fifty pounds of that is dependant upon the vote of the Island Assembly?—Yes.

3309. Are the planters sitting in the court paid for their attendance?—No.

3310. It is a purely honorary office?—Yes.

3311. Mr. *Bankes.*] You have stated that, in your opinion, the objection to fixing rents upon the cottages occupied by labourers would be, that it might induce them to forsake their employers at the time when those rents became due

due; but that objection would not apply, supposing they held them at weekly rents?—No, I do not think it would.

3312. Do you think it would be practicable to let those tenements at weekly rents?—Yes, it would.

3313. Do you conceive that that might be a mode of inducing them rather to continue in the same employment?—Yes; I think I mentioned that at the time I left the island, they talked of passing a law prohibiting the planters from ejecting their labourers at discretion, and giving the power to the magistrate who would have to give the negroes a week's notice.

3314. Do you not think it would be useful to encourage in the minds of the negroes the notion of tenancy?—Perhaps so; but I do not think a holding by the week would encourage it. At present the negroes don't like the idea of it, for they have never applied to be made tenants; and when it has been urged upon them they have recoiled from it, as not wishing to hamper themselves with the obligations that would accompany it.

3315. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the qualification for the Legislative Assembly?—£. 40 a year.

3316. What is the qualification of a voter?—£. 10 a year.

3317. There is a council?—Yes.

3318. Who appoints the members of the council?—The Governor, subject to the approbation of the Government at home. The Home Government may appoint. If the Home Government recommend a man to the Governor, of course the Governor cannot refuse.

3319. Is the qualification of a voter for members of the Assembly, a landed qualification?—Not necessarily.

3320. Has any feeling been manifested in reference to the sale of land or houses to the negroes adverse to the purchase of them, lest they should become qualified to vote for members of the Assembly?—I never heard of any.

3321. That feeling does not interfere with the sale of land, or the disposal of houses?—No, I never heard it mentioned.

3322. Mr. *Hawes.*] You have stated that there has been no instance of negroes cultivating cane on their own account?—No, I never heard of one.

Lunæ, 6° die Junii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Viscount Chelsea.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Godson.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. Hawes.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Captain *Joseph Arthur Allen*, called in; and Examined.

3323. *Chairman.*] YOU have lately filled the situation of stipendiary magistrate in British Guiana?—I have.

3324. How long a time have you held that office?—From the month of August 1834 until I left the colony, on the 7th of April of this present year, 1842.

3325. Had you resided in British Guiana previously to the year 1834?—Yes, I had for a short time.

3326. During those years that you have been acting as magistrate, in what part of the colony of British Guiana had you resided?—I have resided in almost every part of it.

3327. Of late years, since the commencement of freedom, have you been stationary in any one district, or have you been residing in different places?—I have resided in three distinct districts since the commencement of freedom.

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3328. In which counties were the districts?—The counties of Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo.

3329. Which did you reside in last?—Essequibo.

3330. How long were you there?—I have been there since July of last year; it is where I now reside.

3331. Do you still occupy the office?—Yes.

3332. When did you sail from British Guiana?—On the 7th of April last.

3333. During the last few years in which you have been residing in that district as stipendiary magistrate, have you directed your attention to the general affairs of the colony, and to the state of prosperity of the planters?—I have.

3334. Are you aware of the great extent of difficulty and distress, with regard to the cultivation of British Guiana, that is alleged by the planters to have existed of late?—I am not aware of it.

3335. In some of the British Guiana papers that have been distributed to the Committee, in page 78 there is a return of six estates, marked (A.), in which you profess to state the amount of produce, the expenditure, and the net profits of those estates. Are you aware that the accuracy of that statement has been called in question by a witness before this Committee?—I am.

3336. Have you directed your attention to the answers to questions 2480 and 2481, in the evidence of Mr. Barkly?—I have.

3337. You have of course observed that he states the profits upon those estates to be very different from the statement that is made in your table marked (A.)?—He has.

3338. How do you account for the difference which those two statements present?—With the permission of the Committee, I will answer Mr. Barkly's observations. He takes the various estates I have enumerated seriatim, and I should wish to follow the same order in answering the observations he has made. In answer to question 2480 Mr. Barkly says, "I can state them to the Committee pretty fully as regards the three last estates. As regards the first estate, it is impossible to procure information. The first estate is Eliza and Mary, and forms part of a bankrupt's property, and is under the direction of the Court of Chancery, and I believe it is difficult to find any one who can give the particulars." Now I wish to state, in answer to that, that I got the particulars of the produce and of the wages paid, from the attorney of that estate. Every thing else that was stated, with respect to the probable amount of extraordinary expenses, and the probable profits, is merely hypothetical. They were given to the best of my judgment and belief, and not intended to be accurately correct. I simply stated in this return, with regard to these estates, that I got the particulars from the managers or attorneys of the different estates as to the wages paid, and as to the amount of produce. I wish to observe, with respect to the calculation I have made of the profits of the different estates, that I have calculated the sugar at the price of 35*l.* per hogshead, and the molasses and rum at 28 stivers per gallon. I wish to state that the data of this information I received from unprejudiced persons in the colony of Berbice. I take that as the average of the whole year.

3339. Mr. *Barclay.*] Do you mean sterling or currency?—Sterling.

3340. *Chairman.*] How much is a stiver?—There are 20 stivers to the guilder, which is about a third of 4*s.* 2*d.*; but it is brought into sterling money in my calculation.

3341. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You are speaking of the Eliza and Mary estate?—Yes; now I will go on to Prospect, which is the next. Mr. Barkly says, "The second estate, Prospect, was the property of a practical planter, who resided there, and who has since sold it and retired to this country. He states that he has not his papers with him, but that he believes the statement to be quite incorrect as to the returns." I beg to state, with reference to that estate, that my calculation is from the time when that gentleman sold the property. It will be seen that the amount of produce is from May 1840 to December. He sold the estate in May, and therefore the gentleman alluded to has nothing whatever to do with it, and could have known nothing of the correctness of the return. There may be one slight error, which I wish to correct, with reference to that estate. The calculation of the amount of produce is made the same as all the others, whilst it ought to have been less, as the produce was higher in the first half year than it was in the second half year. The produce was very much diminished towards the end of the year 1840. The next is Canefield. I have made the profit of that estate 17,000*l.* A part proprietor of that estate, in his own house, read to me a memorandum

memorandum, in which he made the net profits between 14,000*l.* and 15,000*l.*, and he calculated the cost of sugar at 30*l.* per hogshead. I objected that that calculation was not a fair average, and he said that the sugar had not been sold at the time it ought to have been sold, and that I believe will make about the difference between his calculation and mine.

3342. *Chairman.*] When you speak of the calculations given you by the proprietor, you are understood to say, not that he gave you a calculation, but that he gave you, as a fact, the actual money for which he sold the proceeds?—No; it was merely a calculation on the same principle on which I have made it.

3343. What induced him to name 30*l.* per hogshead as the price?—He had calculated that the sugar would bring 30*l.* a hogshead.

3344. The produce at that time was not sold?—No; it was in the house in England. The next estate is Goldstone Hall. I received an account of the wages, and of the produce of that estate from the attorney and manager of it, and if his expenses were actually more, of course I cannot help it; if my calculation is wrong in that, of course it was no intentional error.

3345. Upon the face of this answer of Mr. Barkly, there is this important difference between your statement and his, that he actually states that the crop of that year sold for 24*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, whereas you have taken it at a general estimate of 35*l.*; do you think it can be at all doubted that the produce was sold at the price of 24*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*?—No, I do not doubt that; but that is easily accounted for; it was valued at much less than my estimate, because I believe the greater part of the sugars that were sent home in the beginning of that year, were held over when they might have been sold, in the expectation of a further rise in the market, and that they were not sold when they might have realised even 40*l.* a hogshead. That, I believe, will be found to be the correct fact; and I can state, with regard to Canefield estate, that I understand that a law-suit is now pending, brought by one of the proprietors against the other, for the loss sustained by having held over those sugars.

3346. Are you prepared to refute the result to which Mr. Barkley comes, that the estate, instead of 5,000*l.*, realised only 550*l.*?—No; I merely wished to show that mine was a *bonâ fide* statement, intended to be correct; and if my calculation of what the sugars realised was not correct, of course I cannot help that.

3347. At the same time, you admit that your calculation, having been made as it was, might have been subject to errors, which would, in fact, make this large difference?—Yes, if the sugars had been held over as before stated.

3348. Is that the mode in which you explain the difference with regard to the fifth estate, Reliance?—Yes.

3349. Mr. *Hawes.*] Do you mean to say that your calculation was, in fact, subject to errors, and, if you do, will you point them out?—I consider that I made a fair estimate of the whole year.

3350. Do you admit any other errors in your calculation?—None, that I am aware of.

3351. It is stated by Mr. Barkly that the crop amounted to 218 hogsheads actually; but you have stated it at 228?—I can only state that the number I returned was what was given me. It is very much the habit of the country to turn over the crop of one year to another; and very likely there may have been 10 hogsheads of the former year turned over to this, or *vice versâ.*

3352. *Chairman.*] Do you mean by mistake?—No, it is a customary thing, in order to make an even number of hogsheads, or something of that kind.

3353. Mr. *Hawes.*] In point of fact, you still adhere to that as the statement given to you?—That was the statement given to me.

3354. And the difference in price you account for by the parties here speculating upon the state of the market?—I suppose so; it was generally understood so.

3355. *Chairman.*] How do you account, in the fifth estate, for the great difference between a revenue of 8,000*l.* and an actual loss of 635*l.*?—I cannot account for it. I considered that I gave a very fair estimate of the extraordinary expenses; and if they make it out differently, I have not the means of detecting any error in the account that is given in.

3356. From what authority was that information, as to the Reliance estate, derived?—The manager gave me the amount of wages, and the amount of produce.

3357. Viscount *Chelsea.*] On what do you ground your calculation of extraordinary expenses?—It is customary to consider that the extraordinary expenses are equal to the amount of wages; and there is another thing upon which I grounded

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it; I considered that greater or less expenses might have been incurred in the erection of cottages, and other extraordinary things; and I considered that little or no expense, on that account, had been made on Reliance; no new cottages had been built.

3358. *Chairman.*] The general result of Mr. Barkly's statement is, that upon the total of those six estates there is a difference between your statement and his, to the amount of 30,000*l.*; have you any reason to say that that statement of Mr. Barkly's is not an accurate statement?—It is impossible for me to say whether it is accurate or not; I have no means of knowing upon what data he has grounded it. I considered that I had allowed for Reliance estate a very fair sum for extraordinary expenses, knowing that no extraordinary expenses had been incurred upon that estate.

3359. Is it your opinion now that you were taking a safe average, in taking 35 *l.* as the price of that year?—From the information I derived, I considered that I was.

3360. You think that was not placing it at a high price?—I have had no means of considering the subject; but I considered it a fair one, from the information I received.

3361. What induced you to select those six estates instead of any others?—I was upon the point of leaving the district; I had to make out my half-yearly return; and it will be observed that this has reference to the former part of that return. I say, in that return, the produce of the last year's crop, estimated on a number of estates, was highly satisfactory; then I go on to say, "Several of the coast estates suffered by an unusually wet season, with defective drainage; others by casualties in their machinery, and one by accidental fire." I think those observations included all the other estates, with the exception of two; and I can account why those were not returned. As I mentioned before, I was about leaving the district; I had left the most distant part; I was then in the neighbourhood of the Canje, where those estates were situated; the other estates were some of them nearly 50 miles distant.

3362. Then it is your opinion that had it not been for the accident of a wet season, and the casualties of machinery, and an accidental fire, all the estates in that district would have been cultivated in that year to a very large profit, and with great success?—I think the returns would have been satisfactory of the whole of them. There was one estate next to the Eliza and Mary which I was anxious to give, but had no opportunity of getting; and there was another estate in the Canje which I am charged with having purposely omitted. I applied to the manager of that estate, and he promised me returns, but he did not forward them, and I had no opportunity of getting them. The estate called "New Forest," which I have likewise been charged with intentionally omitting, was not in my district.

3363. Has your attention been called to a petition from the Court of Policy to Her Majesty, which appears in page 150 of the Guiana Papers, in which it is stated that the produce of sugar of British Guiana has within the last four years fallen off from 60,000 hogsheads to less than 40,000 per annum?—I am aware of that.

3364. Have you any reason to doubt the accuracy of that statement?—No.

3365. Then you believe, notwithstanding the success in that particular year of the district to which you before adverted, that the general produce of the estates in British Guiana have fallen off to the extent of one-third in the last four years?—I believe it has.

3366. In page 153 of the same papers, it is stated in an extract from a despatch of Governor Light's, dated 7th December 1841, that the falling off in the produce of British Guiana "may be accounted for by the neglect of the planters to keep their cultivation in its proper state, being solely occupied in taking advantage of the high prices, by attention to the manufacture of sugar." Do you think that opinion of Governor Light would account in any extensive degree for the diminution of produce in British Guiana?—I am aware that the cultivation was neglected during the high prices of sugar, and attention paid to manufacture.

3367. Do you think that the diminution, which has arisen to this large extent in four years, has throughout all that time been attributed in any great degree to this cause?—No; I consider that it is chiefly to be ascribed to the circumstance that the same amount of labour cannot now be forced as in the times of slavery or apprenticeship.

3368. What

3368. What, in your opinion, is the principal cause of the great falling off which has taken place in the produce of British Guiana?—I should say that it is from the circumstance that the same continuous labour cannot be forced as formerly; the people cannot be compelled to work to that extent.

3369. Do you think that deficiency of labour has been principally caused by the want of additional labour, or by the fact that the labour which there has been has not been continuous?—I ascribe it to both.

3370. To what extent do you ascribe it; to the insufficiency of the existing labour?—A certain portion of those who were formerly apprentices have left labour and purchased places of their own; others do not do so much upon the estates as they did formerly.

3371. In one of your returns as a stipendiary magistrate, page 77, of the Guiana Papers, there are these words: "The supply of labour on the coast estates has in most instances been equal to the demand; continuous labour, rather than an augmentation of hands, seems chiefly desired;" and in page 30 of the papers subsequently delivered in regard to the late strike, you say, "The demand for labour among the proprietors has been great. The supply, though not abundant, has been in general quite equal to the accommodation provided, and in certain cases has exceeded it." Are the Committee to understand that the opinion which you have expressed, that labour is deficient, applies only to a particular district?—I consider it is generally deficient.

3372. How do you account for those two instances in which you state the supply of labour, in your opinion, to be sufficient?—On the coast estates, during a very wet season, the estates having been neglected, the estates were nearly swamped; the people could not be employed till the drainage had been to a certain degree perfected. On one estate the people could not be employed for nearly three months in consequence of that.

3373. Then are the Committee to understand that those statements, which appeared upon the face of them to be of general application, in fact only apply to particular properties, where great difficulties from the want of drainage have occurred?—Yes, I alluded only to the coast estates; and with reference to the others I stated that more labourers could not have been accommodated without additional buildings.

3374. It does not appear that in the statement where you allude to the abundant supply of labour on the coast estates, you have made any explanation as to the want of drainage?—Yes; I stated that several of the coast estates had suffered by an unusually wet season from the defect of drainage.

3375. That does not appear to be stated in connexion with the abundance of labour?—That explains the reason why those estates could not employ more labour.

3376. After the statement you have made with regard to the general insufficiency of the supply of labour, generally speaking, throughout British Guiana, is it your opinion that immigration into that colony is desirable?—I think it is, under proper regulations.

3377. To what causes do you attribute the insufficiency of labour?—A number of women have either withdrawn or give less of their time to agriculture than formerly; they devote a great portion of their time to their families.

3378. Do you think the supply of male labour is equal to what it was?—No, it is not.

3379. To what do you attribute the deficiency of male labour?—The proprietors in general, are satisfied if those people do one task in a day, or six tasks in a week; and, generally speaking, they do not interfere with the other part of the labourer's time.

3380. That applies rather to a want of industry on the part of the labourers than a deficiency in the supply of labour?—That will form a great reduction of the aggregate; if a man does not bestow more than a certain portion of time in labour where, under other circumstances, he might have been compelled to work double the time, that may account for the insufficiency of the labour.

3381. Then are the Committee to understand you to express an opinion that the existing number of labourers is sufficient, provided those labourers would be more industrious and do more work?—That would depend upon the cultivation which the proprietor would be satisfied to keep up; if he wishes to increase the cultivation, he requires more labourers, and he finds a greater difficulty

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in keeping up the quantity of cultivation he formerly had, because he cannot have the same labour available.

3382. Are the Committee to understand that you think the actual present number of male labourers would be sufficient, provided they would be more industrious and do more work?—I hardly think it would, to keep up the present cultivation.

3383. You think the supply of male labour is less than it was?—Yes; many have died, or have purchased some places of their own. A number of the people have gone together, and purchased abandoned estates, and therefore they do not devote the same time that they formerly did to the cultivation of the estates.

3384. Has not the number who have died been supplied by the number of young persons who have been gradually growing up?—No; the young people now generally go to school. Formerly, at a certain age they were put to work; but now, till after a certain age, they do not go to agricultural labour.

3385. Has not the number of immigrants who have been already introduced from various quarters compensated for the number withdrawn from labour by death and by going to other pursuits?—No, I do not think it has. The great body of labourers introduced have been the Portuguese; a vast number of them have died, and the others do but a small portion of work comparatively.

3386. The number of Coolies and African labourers who have been introduced have worked well and continuously, have they not?—They have.

3387. But you think the number of those who have been introduced is not sufficient to compensate for the losses sustained?—I think not.

3388. You stated that one cause of the deficiency of labour was the number of negroes who have bought property and settled upon the lands they have purchased; is it found generally that the parties who have purchased lands have thereupon trusted to their land for their maintenance, and ceased to work for the planters?—No, they have not. I sent in a return of the first few months of a free establishment, showing the portion of labour bestowed upon adjoining estates, and the portion bestowed upon their own property.

3389. You state that, generally speaking, the negroes who have become freeholders, and have settled themselves upon purchased property, have not ceased to labour for the planters?—No.

3390. Then how does the fact of their settling upon those properties withdraw them from the labour market?—It does in the first instance for a short time, till they have put their own places into cultivation, and that has operated more in the commencement than it will hereafter; but it has been a customary thing, I have known it in several places, that either the man or the woman has worked upon the estate, while the other party has worked on their own property.

3391. To what extent do you think that it is desirable, for the sake of the interests of the planters and of the colony generally, that increased labour should be obtained by means of immigration?—I think about 4,000 or 5,000 annually might be very well accommodated. I should be averse to a very large number being introduced at any time, unless previous accommodation had been provided; I have seen great inconvenience arise from that.

3392. You think 4,000 or 5,000 annually might be introduced with advantage to the whole community?—I do.

3393. When you say 4,000 or 5,000 annually, do you mean that that ought to continue for a long period?—I think it might be continued to almost any extent of time.

3394. When you speak of that as being necessary, do you mean that you consider it necessary for the fair cultivation of the lands now growing cane, or that it would be necessary, in order to bring the uncultivated lands of the colony into a productive state?—I think that number might be sufficient to keep up the present cultivation, but the cultivation might be extended hereafter if immigration to that extent were carried on.

3395. You think that 4,000 or 5,000 would be required to keep up the present cultivation?—Yes.

3396. Which do you think is the more desirable object for the planter; that the supply of labour should be increased by immigration, or that the existing force of labour should be rendered more efficient and more continuous?—I do not see any plan by which the present labour might be rendered more continuous, unless controlling measures were enforced to make the people work, which I do not consider would be desirable.

3397. Do you mean that it would not be desirable to resort to any measures to induce the labourers to work more continuously and to do more justice to their employers?—I consider that they do full justice to their employers, to the extent of the remuneration they receive.

3398. Take the case of a man who is allowed to reside rent-free in a cottage and upon the land of the planter, and supposing that that man only does an occasional day's work, and does not give the employer on whose land he resides the benefit of his industry, do you think that labourer does justice to his employer?—I do not think he does.

3399. Do you think it might be desirable to resort to some regulation for the purpose of compelling that man to do justice to his employer in that respect?—I think it would be very desirable to have a rent law, by which, if he did not labour, he should pay for the cottage he occupied.

3400. Is not that answer somewhat inconsistent with what you have just stated, that you thought no law upon the subject was desirable?—I intend it to be consistent. I mean to say that I think there should be no law forcing labour, but a man should pay for the house he occupies, if he does not choose to work. I am averse that the cottage should form any part of the remuneration for labour. I consider that it should be kept perfectly distinct from labour.

3401. Suppose the case of a labourer who undertakes a certain task and performs that task in a slovenly and unworkmanlike manner; does not justice to the employer require that there should be some ready means of enforcing the better performance of his contract?—So there is a very ready and efficacious way, through the stipendiary magistrate.

3402. Supposing a complaint of that nature to be made to the stipendiary magistrate, how do you deal with it?—Under the Orders in Council we have means of punishing the labourers in various ways.

3403. Has it been your object, as a stipendiary magistrate, when such a complaint has been brought before you, invariably to enforce a full and fair performance of his work on the part of the labourer?—Certainly.

3404. Is it your opinion that any fresh laws for the regulation of the relation between employer and labourer are requisite in British Guiana?—None whatever; I consider the present as perfectly adequate to the purpose.

3405. Are you acquainted with the contract law which is at present in force in the colony of Antigua?—No, I am not; it never came within my knowledge.

3406. Have you ever heard that there is a contract law there, the result of which is to regulate the relation between employer and labourer, and to enforce greater industry on the part of the working man?—It has never come to my notice.

3407. Do you consider that any more stringent law for enforcing the due performance of his work on the part of the labourer in British Guiana would be inconsistent with the rights of freedom?—I do not see how anything further can be desired.

3408. What is your opinion on the subject of a law for the regulation of tenancy?—It is a thing that I have always been anxious to establish; that every man should pay for the accommodation he receives, according to the extent of that accommodation, and that it should not be mixed up with the labour question.

3409. Is there not at present an Ordinance before the Legislature of British Guiana upon that subject?—There is.

3410. What is the nature of the provisions of that Ordinance?—I cannot speak fully upon the subject, as I merely read the draft of the Ordinance. It had not been debated, but I believe it was that there should be certain forms adopted for ejecting labourers according to the term for which they held their tenements; and that Ordinance was to be enforced by the stipendiary magistrates.

3411. Is that Ordinance likely to pass into a law?—I really cannot say; I think it is very probable.

3412. Have you heard that that law has been abandoned by the legislature?—No, I have not.

3413. Did you pay attention to the proceedings of a meeting of the proprietors and representatives of estates that was held in British Guiana, at which Sir Michael MacTurk presided as chairman?—I have read the proceedings.

3414. In the speech of Sir Michael MacTurk as chairman of that meeting, do you recollect the opinion he expressed as to the bad effects of allowing men to reside

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reside upon the estates without working for the proprietors, and paying men for tasks when those tasks were ill done?—I remember his saying something of that kind.

3415. Do you remember that he ends with these words: "I am decidedly of opinion, that if those two simple and easily-accomplished propositions were strictly adhered to, that the colony would be put in a comparative state of prosperity, and the mutual interests of the employer and employed secured." Do you concur in that opinion of Sir Michael MacTurk?—He seems to state that the labourer does not do what he ought; but in that case, if the proprietor does not complain to the stipendiary magistrate, he has no person but himself to complain of if the labour is not properly performed.

3416. Do you concur in the opinion, that if those two propositions were adhered to, the colony would be placed in a comparative state of prosperity?—I consider that every man who lives upon the estate, and is able to work, ought to contribute something to the welfare of the estate; but Sir Michael MacTurk there makes the occupation of a cottage part of the wages of labour, which I am anxious to separate. With that exception, I concur in what he says.

3417. Do you concur in his opinion that those propositions are simple and easily accomplished?—I see no difficulty in it.

3418. By what means would you proceed at present to compel a labourer residing rent-free upon an estate to give his work to the proprietor of the estate? —If the estate were my own I should let every cottage to the people, and I would say that I would increase the amount of wages, provided they paid me rent; but that they should not remain upon the property otherwise.

3419. How would you proceed now, when there is no system of rent to enforce upon the man who lives rent-free upon the estate, giving his labour to the proprietor of the estate?—I see no mode of compelling him to work; but you can eject the labourer from the estate.

3420. Do you think it would be possible, without any fresh law, to remedy the inconvenience, if anything like a system should be adopted amongst the planters to act in harmony together, and to eject any labourer who would not give his work and not allow him to live rent-free?—I think anything of that kind would wear the appearance of a combination, and would have a bad effect.

3421. What bad effect should you anticipate from any combination among the planters for their own protection?—I should think they would not attain the object they had in view.

3422. Do not you think it is strictly just that when they have allowed parties to live rent free upon their estates, they should exact from those parties a fair share of labour in return?—I think it is very desirable that the labourers should give that fair return; but it cannot be compelled, and I do not think it would be obtained by an universal mode of ejectment.

3423. You mean that it cannot be compelled at present by any existing law? —I think that must be brought about in a different manner.

3424. Do you not think it is strictly just that where a labourer is allowed to live rent free upon an estate, the proprietor should have his labour in return?—In the abstract it is.

3425. Then what objection do you see to a combination amongst the planters in their own defence, to effect a system which you acknowledge to be a just one? —I simply acknowledge it just to a certain extent; but supposing an able-bodied abourer were ejected, that man may have an infirm father or mother, he may have helpless children, and all those would be sent abroad at once, turned into the public roads without means of protection; and therefore that must be taken into consideration that those people have families, a great number of whom are not able to work, and who would be punished for the fault of the able-bodied labourer.

3426. Even in the case you put the able-bodied labourer would be able to protect himself by working for the estate, and thus avert the evils you have described? —He would; but the question would be as to the quantity of labour to be exacted.

3427. It is presumed that the quantity of labour to be exacted would, in a state of freedom, be matter of contract between the employer and the labourer, and the subject-matter of that contract would be dealt with before the authorities of the country?—Yes; a contract may be made for 28 days without going to any authority.

3428. Therefore

3428. Therefore the question does not apply to the amount of labour to be performed, but to the justice of the man working for the person upon whose property he lives rent-free?—I acknowledge that justice.

3429. Then what objection do you see to the planters agreeing amongst themselves, in their own defence, to eject labourers from the estates upon which they live, those labourers not working for their employers?—I think, in the first place, they would not attain the object by combination; and, in the next place, that many of the labourers would perhaps be driven to settle themselves elsewhere upon land of their own if they could obtain it.

3430. You think that, in point of fact, it would be impossible to carry it into effect?—I do not see that it could be carried into effect.

3431. And you think it might produce a general determination on the part of the negroes to retire from the estates?—I think in many cases it might do so.

3432. Do you think that would be the general result?—I think anything like coercion would be likely to produce that result eventually.

3433. But in such an event as that which has been mentioned, of the planters determining not to allow men to live upon an estate who would not work for them, what alternative would the negroes have in that case; where would they retire to?—I cannot say where the whole body of them would go to; it is a case that very likely never will occur, because the complaints are very few indeed of any particular cases of labourers who continue perseveringly to remain upon an estate and not work for it.

3434. Does it not appear that the improbability of such an occurrence is not so great as you describe it, because no longer ago than in January in last year, there was a general strike among the labourers?—They ceased to labour.

3435. In the event of the people ceasing to labour and being ejected from their residences, where could they betake themselves to?—I do not know that they would have a place to go to.

3436. Are there any uncultivated portions of the colony to which labourers can retire and take forcible possession?—No, there are not.

3437. Besides which, are not the great body of the labourers, notwithstanding the prosperity of a portion of them, dependant upon their labour for their support and maintenance?—They are, certainly.

3438. And even those who have been enabled to purchase land of their own still require the profits of their labour to enable them to live upon the land they purchase?—They do.

3439. Do you or do you not think that the timid practice of the planters in allowing men to remain upon their land without working, and in paying them whether they work well or ill, for fear they should lose their labour, has had a demoralising effect upon the negroes, and promoted habits of idleness, and thereby tended to injure the planters?—I am not aware that such has been the fact at all, either that they have been timid in ejecting where they have refused to work, or that they have paid them, whether they worked well or ill. My opinion is, that they have done neither the one nor the other.

3440. It has been stated by witnesses before this Committee, that both practices have extensively prevailed, from the dread of losing labour, such as it was?—I am not aware that such is the fact; it may have occurred in particular cases, but certainly not as a general rule.

3441. Is it your opinion that where such a practice prevailed, it would have a demoralising effect, and tend to injure the planter?—I think it would, and to injure the negroes.

3442. What are the police regulations in British Guiana?—They are pretty similar to those in this country.

3443. What force of police is there in the colony?—I think at present there are three inspectors and about 150 police constables.

3444. Who are selected for policemen?—There is no preference given as to any particular colour; whether they are white, black, or coloured, they are taken indifferently, if they are men of good character.

3445. Is the police found to be efficient?—I think it is.

3446. Is it sufficiently numerous for the control of the island and for keeping up order?—I think it is, at present.

3447. Are they mounted police?—There are a certain number of horses allowed for each police station.

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3448. In the Parliamentary Papers, at page 43 of the last papers with regard to the strike, in a letter of Mr. Fowler's, he complains of a great many cases of neglect and inattention on the part of the police, and, that consequently it had not been so efficient as it ought to be. Have you heard of any such complaint?—No; in those papers there is a report of mine that was called for at the same time. He resides in the same district that I do; he is now doing my duty during my absence.

3449. What is Mr. Fowler?—He is sheriff; he is at present acting as stipendiary magistrate.

3450. And you think the police force is sufficient for maintaining the peace of the island?—I think so.

3451. In an early part of this paper, where the late rules and regulations with regard to labourers are stated, there is a letter of your's to the government secretary, in which you state your opinion that Nos. 1, 9, 12, and 13 of those regulations contemplate illegal measures. Will you state in what respect you consider those regulations to be illegal?—I consider the first illegal, in as far as it contemplates the not paying the men for work actually performed.

3452. Do you not think it just, and may it not in some cases be absolutely necessary, with regard to the work to be done about the buildings, that the labourers should be compelled to commence work at the proper hour in the morning?—It certainly is, in a measure, with regard to the buildings, with most parts of the work.

3453. Then how do you think it is illegal for it to be part of the contract between the master and the labourer, that the labourer should commence his work at a particular hour?—I think it would be illegal allowing a man, if he did not come at the time ordered, to work at all, and then not paying him for it. The proper way would be to dismiss him, and not pay him at all; but it would be illegal to allow that man to perform the work, and afterwards not pay him for it.

3454. Then you object to the mode in which the object is to be attained, but the object itself you consider just and necessary?—I consider it just and necessary that the people about the buildings should begin at the hour ordered by the manager.

3455. In the absence of those rules and regulations, there is at present no law by which such commencement of labour can be enforced?—Not without a previous contract.

3456. Does not that rule contemplate a previous contract?—I think not; it merely contemplates notice of this being put upon the buildings.

3457. Will you state how you consider that the 9th regulation is illegal?—I think it would be illegal to enforce that without the previous consent of the labourer.

3458. Do not you think that under the 16th rule it is distinctly implied that the consent of the labourer is to be given to every one of those rules and regulations?—I think it is not sufficient unless his consent has been formally given, not impliedly, but absolutely given.

3459. Then you only give a contingent opinion of these regulations being illegal, in the event of an attempt to enforce them without the previous consent of the labourer?—Yes.

3460. And if the consent of the labourer is given, you see nothing illegal in them?—No.

3461. You were understood, in a former part of your evidence, to recommend that very practice which the 9th rule lays down, namely, exacting the payment either of rent or of a fine, in the event of the labourer not working for the person upon whose land he lives?—Not without the previous consent of the labourer.

3462. Are you aware of the fact stated in Mr. Rose's letter, at page 49, that upon plantation Lima this very practice had been in operation 18 months before you arrived in that district?—I have heard it stated to be so, but I consider it to be illegal.

3463. Do you know whether it is correct which has been stated before this Committee by more than one witness, that this very practice has been carried into effect upon some estates, upon the recommendation of a stipendiary magistrate?—I doubt that. I should consider that any stipendiary magistrate that did so would act illegally; and I have told that very manager of Lima that I considered the practice illegal, and that I would not permit it.

3464. Did

3464. Did you not say that there was nothing illegal in it provided the consent of the person was obtained?—Exactly; that is what I wish.

3465. Are you aware whether in the case of plantation Lima the labourers had or had not given their consent?—I do not think they had; my impression is that it was never asked.

3466. Are you sure of that?—No, I am not; but the reason why I say that is, that several negroes in that district complained to me that such had been done, and I directed the money to be refunded.

3467. But you consider that in the event of the negro having given his consent, the practice would be a legal one?—Yes.

3468. In that case should you, as a stipendiary magistrate, have enforced the payment of those fines?—No, certainly not; I should have enforced the payment of the men's wages, and have left the manager to recover the money for whatever he was to pay for his cottage as he could.

3469. You are understood to express the opinion that, in the event of the labourer's consent having been given to such an arrangement as this, the arrangement is legal?—What I mean to say is, that I would not have interfered with it; but I would not have allowed the question to be mixed up with his wages. If the labourer had earned a certain amount of wages, I would have enforced those wages, and not allowed any deduction even if he had given his consent. But I should consider that the manager might have recovered the money by another process.

3470. Then, supposing the labourer to enter into such contract, the contract would be a legal and binding one?—I consider that it would be a case of petty debt, which might be recovered under the Petty Debt Ordinance.

3471. If you, as a stipendiary magistrate, would not interfere in such a case, what would be the remedy of the planter?—He might apply to a justice of the peace, as in a case of petty debt.

3472. Then supposing he applied to you, as a justice of the peace, you would enforce it?—I should very likely have done so, if the man had given his consent to it.

3473. Would it or would it not be your duty to do so?—It would be my duty if there were no question as to the labourer having fully understood the contract he had entered into.

3474. In the event of the labourer having consented, it would be your duty as a magistrate to enforce that payment?—I should have done so; a good deal depends upon the mode in which the contract has been made; if the labourer had given his full consent to it, I should have enforced it.

3475. Then the whole question, with regard to the opinion you have expressed as to the illegality of that 9th rule, turns entirely upon this simple issue, whether or not the labourer had been a consenting party to the bargain?—My objection was also to deducting it from his wages, which I consider would be decidedly illegal.

3476. But if both parties came before you, the one to sue for the wages and the other to sue for the fine, would not the result of your decision be to deduct it from the wages?—I would have the wages paid in the first instance; it would come to the same thing, no doubt.

3477. What is your opinion as to the expediency of such a rule; do you think it would have a good effect in inducing the labourer, under the dread of this fine, to give more continuous labour upon the estate?—I think it might to a certain extent; but I think it is by no means desirable that such a mode of proceeding should be adopted.

3478. In Mr. Rose's letter, after stating that that practice had obtained for 18 months before your arrival, he goes on to say: "The result of it was, that the number of labourers in the field was double what it had been previously. The industrious and well-disposed labourers approved of it, and even wished the amount of the payment to be increased as a punishment to the idle and dissipated;" have you any reason to doubt the correctness of that statement?—I doubt it entirely; I consider that as many labourers worked on Lima during my stay as there did before; at least no complaint was ever made by the manager.

3479. Do you mean that after your arrival that practice was put a stop to?—I told the manager that it was illegal; that the proper course, if he was not satisfied with the men not working, was to discharge them.

3480. Did you at the same time tell the manager that that practice would be

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legal if he had the consent of the workman?—I told him, to the best of my recollection, that in all cases it would be necessary to have the previous consent of the labourer, but that if the man objected, he must pay him, and that his remedy would be by discharging him. I said that if the man did not object, of course I should not interfere.

3481. Are you aware, after you had so stated the law, explaining to the manager of plantation Lima that it was legal or illegal, not abstractedly but contingently, upon the consent of the labourer, what subsequently became the practice upon the estate; did that practice cease altogether, or did it continue, the consent of the labourer being first had?—I cannot say; but to the best of my recollection, no complaint was made upon the subject.

3482. Then, so far as that goes, how does that throw any reason for doubt upon this statement?—Simply this, that Mr. Rose says, that after my coming to the district, in consequence of this, a vast number of people had withdrawn from the estate, or had not worked so assiduously as before. I say I doubt the correctness of that, because, if such were the case, I should have heard of it, as I was in the constant habit of intercourse with that manager.

3483. Is that the only reason why you doubt the correctness of this statement, as to the good effects of that system?—I doubt very much that such a system can ever have any other result than that of creating dissatisfaction amongst the people.

3484. Why should it create dissatisfaction amongst the people?—No man would wish to have his money stopped for which he had worked; it was contemplating a diminution of his wages.

3485. Not in the event of his working for his proper master?—Certainly not.

3486. Did it contemplate any diminution of his wages unless the man refuses to work?—I am particularly averse to the wages and compulsory payment being mixed up together.

3487. Did this system diminish the wages of the labourer, unless he left off working for his proper master?—No, it did not.

3488. Was not the natural tendency of it to produce more continuous labour upon the estate?—Such might be supposed to be the case, but my opinion was that it did not produce more.

3489. Do you say that as matter of fact, or as matter of theory?—As matter of opinion, I do not think it produced more continuous labour; it tended to make the labourer dissatisfied, and to lose him to the estate altogether.

3490. Do you think that any such supposition as to the tendency of the practice would be an erroneous opinion?—Yes, I think that it is an erroneous opinion that such a system would produce more continuous labour.

3491. Then are the Committee to understand you to say that you think that strong statement of Mr. Rose's is, in fact, an incorrect and inaccurate statement?—I do.

3492. And you suppose that the increased number of labourers in the field must be accounted for by some other cause?—I know that Mr. Rose has been in the habit of making such extraordinary assertions from time to time, that I doubt the general correctness of what he brings forward.

3493. In the evidence of Mr. Barkly, in answer to question 2350, he says, "The system of paying half a guilder a day for the days on which the negro does not work, is being tried, with the concurrence of the magistrate; but that was resorted to because the negroes upon the estate had been particularly idle and troublesome." Do you, or do you not think that that statement is correct with regard to the concurrence of the magistrate?—It is impossible for me to say what another magistrate may have done; I do not know what magistrate he alludes to.

3494. It is with reference to an estate called Highbury?—It would depend upon the period.

3495. You cannot state whether in some cases that experiment may have been tried with the concurrence of the magistrate?—It may have been done so; I was informed that it had been done by the magistrate who preceded me in my late district.

3496. What was that gentleman's name?—Mr. Ware.

3497. How do you consider the regulation restricting the labourers from keeping hogs to have been illegal?—I think the summary destruction of those hogs would have been illegal whether found loose or in pens.

3498. Then

3498. Then you do not doubt the right of the proprietor to restrict his labourers from keeping hogs?—Certainly not.

3499. Do you doubt the assertion, that the keeping of hogs might, unless very strictly confined, be very injurious to the proprietor?—Yes.

3500. And that there might be good reason for such restriction on the part of the proprietor?—Yes, there might.

3501. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Are you aware of any law, of long standing in the colony, making it legal to kill all stray hogs?—In certain parts; not in the country; merely confined to the towns.

3502. *Chairman.*] With regard to the 13th rule; whatever may be thought as to the policy or impolicy of such a restriction, how do you consider it illegal for the proprietor to deny his labourers the occupation of provision grounds?—It would not be illegal to deny the labourers the occupation of provision grounds; but I consider it would be illegal not to give him any remuneration, or not to permit him to reap the produce of those grounds, after having been once permitted to cultivate them. That is the illegal part.

3503. Do you think it would be politic, or otherwise, to restrict the labourers from the occupation of provision grounds?—I think it would be highly impolitic.

3504. Do you know for what reason such a restriction was adopted among these regulations?—I cannot imagine, except it were to compel the labourer to accept those rules and regulations.

3505. Do you suppose that it arose from any dread that they were cultivating provisions with a view to sell to an extent that made them independent of labour?—No, certainly not.

3506. You do not know what motive might have prevailed to induce the adoption of that restriction?—Only to render them more dependent upon the planters.

3507. Supposing the restriction were generally adopted, would it not have exposed the labourer to considerable difficulty in supplying himself with provisions?—It would; he must then have depended entirely upon his wages, and if no provisions had been cultivated by them, the plantains, upon which they principally subsist would not have been had at all.

3508. With regard to the whole of those rules and regulations, do you think that, with a view to the interests of both the planter and the negro, they were highly impolitic?—I think so.

3509. In what respects?—From their being brought about in the manner in which they were, and also on account of those illegal parts of them to which I alluded.

3510. Supposing them to have been brought about more cautiously and more gradually, and to be somewhat modified in their restrictions, especially this one with regard to the provision grounds, do you think that some such rules and regulations might have tended to improve the industrious habits of the negro, and to promote a better understanding between master and workman?—I have never seen the necessity of those rules and regulations, because each proprietor had the power of making such contract as he pleased with his own people, by obtaining the sanction of the labourers to it; and if made in the presence of a stipendiary magistrate, those rules and regulations might have continued for a year.

3511. Then you think that the objection to the general policy of those rules was rather in consequence of the sudden manner in which they were adopted than to the tendency of the rules themselves?—I think had they been brought about in another way, and those illegal parts had been left out, there would not then have been any great objection to them; but I do not see the necessity of them.

3512. In some shape or another, you think it is desirable for the planter to defend himself against the caprices and idleness of the negro, by entering into a contract with his labourer?—I think so.

3513. Of such a nature as shall bind the labourers to the fair and just performance of what they undertake?—It is a thing I have always advocated.

3514. Can you state what has been the result of those rules; have they been altogether abandoned?—I believe entirely.

3515. Had they produced any effect?—None whatever, that I am aware of, except in the sense of settling down those people; I believe in most cases better work has been obtained for the same amount of wages that was formerly paid.

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3516. You think that the result of this difference between the masters and labourers arising from those rules, although the rules have been withdrawn, has ended in their performing more work than they did before?—Not more work, but better work.

3517. How, under the circumstances which took place, and looking at the fact of the rules having been withdrawn, has that result been produced?—I can only speak as to my own district. I was particularly instrumental in settling the differences between the planters and the labourers; through my mediation this year settlements were made more quickly than they otherwise would have been; and at that time I told them that I should insist that whatever labour they did should be properly performed.

3518. Do you think that labour promises now to be more continuous than it has been?—I think that labour, generally speaking, has been very satisfactory, and I do not apprehend the recurrence of anything similar to what we have had lately.

3519. In one of Mr. Rose's letters, he states that those rules are still in operation upon the five estates of which he has the management; do you suppose that to be the case?—I do not think it is the case; I think those rules and regulations have been universally abandoned. And with regard to his own estate, Lima, the manager told me he never would act upon them.

3520. Notwithstanding the abandonment of the rules, you think the discussion of those rules of late has ended in an understanding on the part of the negroes that they were bound to do better work than they did before?—Yes. I will explain the cause which led to that bad work. During the time that sugar was at such a very high price, a quantity of labour was taken which ought not to have been taken, from the motive of endeavouring to get as many tasks performed as possible, and also from the practice of paying an increased sum for extra labour; so that the labourers did not mind so much the mode in which the first task was performed, in order that they might get to a second; and a sort of slovenly mode of doing the work had gradually crept in, for which the one party was as much to blame as the other.

3521. Do you mean that the planters were to blame in not bringing such cases before the stipendiary magistrate?—I think the planters were to blame in having allowed it to pass.

3522. Do you think they had any ground for the apprehensions they appear to have entertained, that if they appealed to the justices, in such cases they should offend the labourer and lose his work?—I think not; I do not consider he would have lost his work.

3522*. Is there any other remedy you would suggest for the present distressed condition of the planters in British Guiana besides immigration?—I think one of the greatest evils that the colony has to contend with, in common with other parts of the West Indies, is that of absenteeism. It leads to an expensive mode of conducting the estates, a great part of which might be avoided if the proprietor resided upon the spot. They would be able to curtail the expenses, and the proprietors, generally speaking, would get more continuous and willing labour than is generally found under the present system.

3523. Is there any vagrant law in British Guiana?—There is.

3524. Is that sufficient?—Quite so. It is almost precisely what obtains in England, with the exception that the stipendiary magistrate has the power of enforcing the provisions of it instead of the justices of the peace, as in this country.

3525. Is there any sufficient law to prevent the negroes squatting upon unappropriated land?—There is.

3526. Is that law enforced?—Yes; I believe such a thing hardly ever exists as that of a negro squatting upon unappropriated ground; but the law is quite sufficient to put it down; the law is an Order in Council.

3527. Do you consider that since the commencement of freedom in British Guiana the general condition of the negroes has improved?—Very much.

3528. Are you of opinion that the present supply of religious and general instruction is sufficient?—I think it is; it is much more in that colony than in any other.

3529. Do you think the moral habits of the people have improved?—Very much.

3530. Within your knowledge, have marriages much increased?—Yes, very considerably.

3531. Can

3531. Can you state in what ratio?—It is impossible, in the absence of official documents, to say; but during slavery marriages were very rare, but now in some districts very few live together that are not married.

3532. Were the negroes, generally speaking, in British Guiana, Christians during the time of slavery?—They were, as far as the missionaries could make them so, but impediments were thrown in the way.

3533. By the proprietors?—Yes.

3534. Has Christianity much increased since the commencement of freedom?—It has very widely extended.

3535. Has the negro become more civilised in his habits?—Yes, decidedly.

3536. Do you think he has become a more industrious man than he was?—I think he is a more thinking man, and therefore generally more industrious.

3537. You did not leave British Guiana till last April; had you heard of the offer made by Mr. Garnett to let several farms of 14 acres each?—I had not heard of it.

3538. You cannot say anything about the system upon which he intended to let those farms?—No.

3539. Is it your opinion that it would be desirable to introduce into British Guiana a system of letting lands to tenants?—Yes, I have recommended such a system.

3540. Upon what principle did you recommend that system?—Upon the system that a certain portion of the estate should be let to the labourers upon the estate, and that they should cultivate it and have a certain portion of the produce in return.

3541. That is the Metarie system, is it not?—It is.

3542. You do not contemplate that in any extensive system of letting farms they should be rented upon the English plan of being entirely occupied independently by the labourers?—That would not answer for the cultivation of sugar.

3543. Might it answer for the growth of provisions and other produce?—It might for provisions; but the planters now cultivate provisions to a very small extent.

3544. Do you think such a plan would tend to increase the profit of the estate?—Yes.

3545. Would it tend more closely to connect the labourer with the land upon which he lives, and to promote local attachment on his part?—I think it might.

3546. In a letter of yours, dated the 2d of April, addressed to Mr. Young, you say, "When about, by his Excellency's sanction, to quit the colony, on a short leave of absence, I would remark on the universal industry and general good conduct of the labourers throughout this district." By the expression, "universal industry," do you mean that they were, at that time, all working continuously and fairly for their proper employers?—I should consider that it included industry on their own behalf as well, because there are several establishments, at least villages or petty hamlets, rising up; I meant to say that there was an absence of idleness.

3547. Did you mean to imply, by that expression, that the planter had less reason to complain of the want of continuous labour than he had before?—The planters in my district were almost universally satisfied with the conduct of the labourers at that time; I had an opportunity of getting the sentiments of almost the whole of them; they never were better satisfied than they were with the conduct of the labourers at the period of my leaving.

3548. You go on to state that "during a recent visit to most of the estates, not a murmur of dissatisfaction was expressed by any manager." Are the Committee to understand from that strong expression, that labour was continuous and sufficient?—As to its being sufficient, I cannot say; but I meant to convey that the managers were perfectly satisfied with the conduct of the labourers at that time; whether the labour might have been sufficient was another question; because there are no managers probably, who would not desire more labour.

3549. Are the Committee to understand that the general feeling of the managers was, that the quantity of labour they did was good; that the labour was continuous, and that the labour was sufficient as far as those labourers went?—As far as those labourers went; as far as was generally expected from them; the amount of one task per day.

3550. Were any of the rules and regulations in force at that time?—Not in my district.

3551. Is not the state of things you have just described a great improvement

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upon the previously existing state of things?—I think the labour is now better performed than it was.

3552. Do you attribute that in any degree to the circumstances connected with the publication of those rules and regulations?—I think it arose from the previous excitement, and the settling down of things; it was understood that if the planters continued to give the same wages as formerly, the labour would be more rigidly enforced; it was perfectly understood by the labourers.

3553. In fact a fresh understanding was practically arrived at?—Yes.

3554. Have wages been lowered since the publication of the rules?—Not in my district; they had previously been very little increased on the majority of estates in my district.

3555. The principal reduction contemplated by those rules was from five to four, was it not?—It was.

3556. But that fifth bit has been again given?—It has been given for the extra work in every case, I believe.

3557. In Governor Light's despatch of the 12th of April, in page 8, he says, "I stated to your Lordship that at the publication of the 'rules and regulations,' which led to the 'strike,' those proprietors whose good sense led them to repudiate the conduct of their brother planters, found no difficulty in reducing the wages, while the labour of their estates was not discontinued for a day." Do you know whether that reduction of wages has continued in those cases?—I believe it alludes to other districts, with which I am not acquainted.

3558. Are you of opinion that the planter in British Guiana can afford to pay the present rate of wages, provided he obtains continuous and sufficient labour?—I think so, certainly.

3559. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You have resided in Demerara?—In Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo.

3560. In Demerara, do you know an estate called Resouvenir?—I do not; I know there is such an estate.

3561. Do you know an estate called Enmore?—I have been upon the estate.

3562. When were you there last?—Not for a long time past; not since 1837, I think.

3563. At that time what was the state of the labourers there?—Very satisfactory. I was very intimately acquainted with a person who was the attorney of the estate at the time, Mr. Swainson.

3564. You know nothing of that estate since 1839?—No.

3565. At that time, was there any part of the estate abandoned?—Not that I am aware of.

3566. Have you been resident latterly in Berbice?—In Essequibo.

3567. Have you made an inspection of the estates in Berbice generally?—Yes, in my own district I have.

3568. Do you know an estate called Welgelegan?—No.

3569. Herstolling?—No; I know where they are.

3570. Were they not in your district?—No.

3571. In a portion of your evidence to-day, as regards the difference in the statement of the accounts between yourself and Mr. Barkly, in accounting for one of the differences that existed between you, you said that 10 hogsheads of sugar might have been turned over from the former crop; is that often done?—Very frequently.

3572. But in this case, that is a mere matter of surmise on your part?—Entirely.

3573. You also stated, that on your inspection of the estates, one had suffered from accidental fire; what estate was that?—Smithson's Place. My report alludes to 1840.

3574. At that period you stated that the returns of the estates would have been entirely satisfactory?—I said that "the produce of last year's crop was highly satisfactory."

3575. At that time were you aware of the price of a hogshead of sugar in London?—Not at the time I made the report; but I took the average of the year from those upon whose opinion I could depend.

3576. Then you did not know at that period the price of a hogshead of sugar?—No; I supposed that the sugar had been sold at the average price for the year.

3577. Has it ever come to your knowledge that the labourers have refused to cut the canes when ripe, unless at an advance of wages?—Never; but I have known the contrary happen, that in a case where a strike originated, the labourers took off the ground the canes that had been already cut at the price that the manager chose to give them rather than the estate should suffer.

3578. You do not know any instance where an advance of wages was claimed by way of bribe to induce them to cut the canes?—I am not aware of any.

3579. Are you aware of a belief among the labourers that by the Act of Freedom the Queen gave to them their houses and lands for a certain period?—I have heard something of the kind stated, but I do not think the negroes believe anything of the kind; they are too enlightened.

3580. As regards their inclination to rob plantain-grounds, does that exist to any great extent?—Certainly not.

3581. Are they inclined to fish and hunt?—They are inclined to fish a little in the trenches; as to hunting, there are very few opportunities for anything of that kind.

3582. Are you aware whether squatting, to any considerable extent, has taken place on any abandoned lands?—Certainly not.

3583. Have you observed any disinclination among the labourers, since freedom, to bring their children up to field labour?—That has been the case with the younger children, but those of a certain age are now beginning to fall into agricultural labour; but there is very little disposition to bring them up to field-labour; the disposition of the parents was to give their children education in the first instance.

3584. Are you aware how many children, born free since 1833, have gone to work?—That I am not aware of; it would be very difficult to ascertain that.

3585. Do you consider that much or little labour is obtained now from negroes of 14 years of age?—I think they generally begin to work now at about that age, but very little labour is obtained from them previously to that; certainly not under 12 years, and generally not under 14.

3586. You said that you consider that the labourers do full justice to their employers for the wages they receive; have you not known many instances where the labourers would only work for a very few hours during the day?—They do what is called a task; and, provided they do the task in a satisfactory manner, they are not limited as to the time in which it may be performed.

3587. If the labourer has only fair average wages, and equal justice is done to the labourer and to the planter, how comes it that in numerous instances the labourers have realised large sums, sufficient to enable them to purchase estates?—I consider that those estates that they have purchased for the large sums we hear of are many of them purchased chiefly with money handed down from father to son for a vast series of years; even in time of slavery the negro could save a certain sum of money; this was handed down in succession in the family; and during the apprenticeship they had an opportunity also of acquiring a good deal of money.

3588. You have said that there are no portions of the colony to which labourers refusing to work can retire?—None to which they can retire with impunity, unless they purchase the land.

3589. You said that you knew an estate called Herstolling?—I know there is such an estate; I believe it is an estate up the Berbice River.

3590. Adjoining that estate, is there not a considerable and extensive bush?—I think it is very probable, but I cannot speak positively as to that.

3591. With regard to contracts, you said you should have insisted upon the payment of the wages to the labourer, and have left the manager to his own resources to obtain justice for himself?—Left the manager to prefer his claim in another way.

3592. Then you would interfere on account of the labourer, and not on account of the other party?—I would interfere on account of both equally, if appealed to.

3593. Then how are the Committee to understand your statement that you would insist upon the payment of the wages to the labourer and leave the other contracting party to his own resources?—To bring his complaint in another form.

3594. Not before you?—He could bring it before me as a local justice.

3595. Why do you think it not desirable that that sort of contracts should be made and acted on with an equal consideration for both contracting parties?—

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I think it is very desirable that contracts of all kinds should be perfectly understood, and that in that case they should be acted upon. But I have always been averse to mixing up rent and wages; I would keep them perfectly distinct.

3596. You have said that you conceive that the immediate destruction of hogs would be illegal; supposing those hogs were doing vast injury to the estate, should you conceive that it would be illegal in that case?—There is a law that if hogs trespass a second time they may be destroyed; and, besides, that compensation may be obtained for any damage committed. The law is, that if a hog or a goat trespasses a second time it may be destroyed.

3597. How would compensation be obtained for the damage done by the hog?—I am not aware of any mode except by bringing an action at law.

3598. Bringing an action at law against the labourer would afford very little prospect of redress?—It is seldom that such a thing would be carried to such an extent, because the destruction of the hog would be generally held sufficient for the injury committed; that might be a matter of opinion, but still the planter might have his redress in that manner.

3599. Then whatever amount of damage might be done by the hog, whether considerable or not, the only redress that the planter would obtain would be the death of the hog?—No; he might bring an action for damages, the same as between any other persons.

3600. The labourers are in the habit of cultivating plantain-grounds, and you object to their being deprived of those plantain-grounds during the time that the crop is upon them; but after the crop they have sown has been gathered in, you do not hold it illegal to deprive them of their plantain-grounds?—I think it would be illegal not to give them compensation for their plantain trees, or else to give them the option of removing the stool of the plantain. The plantain tree is a considerable time in coming into bearing, and a good deal of labour may be expended upon it previously to that.

3601. You were understood to say, that you think it would be impolitic to discharge the labourers from the cultivation of their plantain-grounds if they did not work?—I said, that I considered it impolitic or unjust not to give the labourers compensation for their grounds, or to allow them to reap them.

3602. Why do you think it would be impolitic to discharge them from the plantain-grounds if they will not give certain work to the estate?—I do not say that; I say I think it would be unjust to deprive the labourer of his plantain-grounds, which has been previously given him, because a great amount of labour is expended previously to those grounds coming into bearing.

3603. When were those plantain-grounds given to the labourer?—From time to time.

3604. Before emancipation?—Generally speaking, during slavery.

3605. Under the new state of things, why do you object to the landlord taking advantage of that state of things which gives him the right to his own property in the same way as the negro does of his own labour?—I do not object to the planter resuming the grounds, but only to his resuming them without giving compensation to the labourer.

3606. You have said that if the proprietors resided upon their estates, affairs would have a better aspect; why do you say that the cultivation of an estate, in the absence of the proprietor, is more expensive than if he were to manage it himself?—Simply from what I have said, because the contingent expenses of the estate must be much more in his absence, because the salary of the manager and the attorney would be saved in the one instance, whilst they are incurred in the other.

3607. That is upon the supposition that, when he resides on his estate, he manages it himself?—Yes.

3608. Then the saving of expense is simply in the salary of those two agents that you have named?—I think there might be other things, because there is frequently a change of managers. One manager pursues one system, and another, another; therefore a vast deal of labour is thrown away, in many cases, by change of managers.

3609. Were impediments thrown in the way of the religious instruction of the negroes during slavery by the proprietors?—I always understood so.

3610. Do you know it of your own knowledge?—I was there in a military capacity during slavery, but I had not an opportunity of directing my attention to

that

that subject; but there are various records that would show that such was the case.

3611. In the recent despatch from Governor Light, he says, "We know that many estates make less sugar than when labour was coerced. Freemen will carry their labour to the best market, or will apply their industry to what tends most to their interest;" do you think that the fact of many estates making less sugar arises from a mere change in local industry, or from cessation from labour altogether?—It may be accounted for by both things, either by a partial retirement from labour, or by some of the labourers going elsewhere, or settling in different directions.

3612. Then again we find this in the same despatch: "Then came the desire to acquire a spot of ground to make him," that is the labourer, "independent of the estate. Abandoned estates and estates in cultivation have been successively, as your Lordship knows, purchased in common by labourers at large prices;" do you say that the money which the labourers have expended in those purchases, was money left them by their predecessors?—I say that a great part of the money for the purchase of those estates, may have descended in families; but of the large sums expended upon those estates, but a very small portion of it, I believe, not more than a third, has been paid, the rest is to be paid by instalments.

3613. To what amount have you known paid?—Generally about a third in the first instance.

3614. What sum did that third amount to?—I have not got the documents recording the different estates that were purchased, but I believe, in most cases, many more labourers were concerned in the purchases than appear in those documents. It is a customary thing for the various members of a family to join together, and to give to the representative of that family a certain sum; so that, perhaps, 10 or 20 may represent 100.

3615. Upon those estates, what has been the general plan adopted by the negroes; have they continued to manage the estate as company, or is it in separate partnerships?—I have understood that the usual manner was to cultivate a certain portion of it for the general benefit of the whole, so as to enable them to pay off the purchase-money, and that they had made several allotments of another part of the ground, on which to erect their cottages.

3616. *Chairman.*] How long does the plantain tree continue to bear fruit?—It will go on almost to any time; it throws up shoots; when it bears one branch, the tree is cut, and immediately other shoots come up.

3617. Mr. *Barclay.*] You have stated, that you do not doubt that the produce has fallen off from 60,000 to 40,000 hogsheads, and you attribute that deficiency of one-third to the want of continuous labour, and the loss of the labour of many of the apprentices who do not now work. Can you attribute it to any other causes?—Some part may have arisen from unfavourable seasons.

3618. Is it within your knowledge that it is owing in part to the seasons that that great falling off has taken place?—I think it would be in the natural course of events, from the impossibility of obliging the labourers to work in the manner they were formerly obliged to do; which, had it gone on as it did during slavery, would, in the course of 20 years, perhaps, have rendered the black population extinct in that country.

3619. You have stated that the planter can afford to pay the present wages for labour, if it were continuous. Have you taken into your calculation the deficiency in the quantity produced of one-third?—Yes, I have. I think it will pay the planter better to diminish his cultivation, and to cultivate a part of the estate well.

3620. You were understood to say, that provided the planter obtained the same quantity of sugar that he did before, he could afford to pay the present wages for labour if it were continuous, but as he only gets two-thirds of the quantity he formerly got, are you of opinion that those two-thirds would remunerate him at the present rate of labour?—I think at the present prices they would remunerate him.

3621. Supposing the value of sugar in Europe to decline materially, would it remunerate him?—Then perhaps it might not.

3622. You have stated that the cause of the falling off of the crop of 1841 was owing to the planters neglecting the cultivation, and devoting all their attention to the manufacture?—I think a great deal may have originated from that. I spoke of the produce of the year 1840, not of 1841.

3623. The planters could only employ their labourers in the manufacture upon the canes fit for cutting?—They could not manufacture the sugar, of course, unless there were canes fit to cut.

3624. If, therefore, they had employed their labourers in the cultivation instead, must they not have left the canes fit for cutting upon the ground. That is, if they had occupied the labourers in the cultivation, must they not have neglected cutting the canes?—I have heard it stated that the high price of sugar induced many proprietors to cut their canes before they were ripe, and therefore those canes did not yield so well as they might have done; of course, that had a great effect upon the amount of the crop.

3625. In your valuation, you put sugar at 35 *l.* a hogshead?—For the whole year.

3626. In a report of a meeting of proprietors and representatives of estate owners, at page 135 of the Parliamentary Papers, it is said, "By the latest accounts, the average price of Demerara sugar in England cannot be estimated at more than 18 *l.* per hogshead, or, at 4 *s.* 2 *d.* to the dollar, 86 dollars, 40 cents; nor is there any reasonable prospect of the average price ranging much higher in future." How do you account for the great discrepancy between your valuation and that statement?—That did not relate to the year 1840 at all; it was during the year 1840 the price of sugar was so high.

3627. Then you are speaking of the year 1840, and that report is speaking of 1841?—Yes.

3628. Is it your opinion that the difference in the value of sugar in 1840 and in 1841 was 15 *l.* a hogshead?—Yes, the average price of 1840.

3629. Do you think, at the present time, at the reduced price of sugar, the planters can afford to pay the present wages of labour?—I am not aware what the present value of sugar is.

3630. Taking it at 20 *l.*?—Yes; that is the opinion of an eminent planter, who gave me that opinion, that he would be perfectly satisfied with that.

3631. You stated that Mr. Rose is the proprietor of an estate; is he the manager of other estates?—He does not manage estates himself; he may be the attorney of others.

3632. You stated that he was very incorrect in the report he has made?—I consider him so.

3633. Mr. Rose has been long resident in the colony?—Very long.

3634. He is a gentleman of great respectability there, and a leading man in the colony; is he not?—I believe he has been always a leading person in the colony, as long as I have known it.

3635. He is manager of the Colonial Bank?—He is; and a member of the Court of Policy.

3636. The manager of the Colonial Bank must be a person of considerable weight and consequence in the colony?—It would depend upon those who choose him; it gives him great weight in the colony no doubt.

3637. If he were not a person of great respectability, it is not likely that he would be chosen as manager of that bank?—No, I think not.

3638. But notwithstanding his high station and character, you think he may be mistaken in his reports?—Yes; he states that after the time I came into that district there was nothing but dissatisfaction.

3639. Do you consider that the produce this year will be much deficient?—It is very likely that this strike, as it was termed, will very materially affect the result of this year; had it not been for that, I should say that this year would have been fully equal to the last.

3640. Not more than 40,000 hogsheads?—No, I do not suppose it will be more than that.

3641. Is there any prospect of the produce of the colony rising to its former amount of 60,000 hogsheads?—Yes; by an increase of population.

3642. By means of immigration?—And by the natural course of events, of the people increasing.

3643. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is the size of the hogshead the same now as it used to be?—No; it has been gradually increased from the time of slavery to the present, from about 12 cwt. to 24 cwt.; I understand that during slavery that was the usual size of the hogsheads.

3644. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Are you aware of the circumstances of any estate upon which no complaint has been made of the want of sufficient labour?—I am

aware of many managers saying that they wished for no immigrants; that they wished for no further increase of labourers; that they had as many as they desired.

3645. It is stated in a despatch of Governor Light's of the 12th of April, "people flock to estates in whose proprietors or managers they confide, and whose characters are known to them; with these additional hands more land is brought into cultivation." Are you aware whether there are any inducements held out by those proprietors or managers, so as to secure a continuance of labour?—Sometimes there may be; but I imagine that kind and considerate treatment has more effect with them than occasional indulgences; something of that kind may attract them in the first instance, but to fix the people will require kind and considerate treatment. Those people are particularly susceptible of harsh language of any kind, and where that is used they will generally get disgusted.

3646. Mr. *Godson.*] When you speak of 20 *l.* a hogshead being a remunerating price, does that mean 20 *l.* before the freight and merchant's charges are paid in this country?—I understand that it is net to the planter 20 *l.*

3647. Supposing the planter in London to have a merchant, the merchant handing him over 20 *l.* a hogshead, would enable him to meet all the expenses he would incur for wages and other things upon the estate, and leave him a remunerating profit for the interest of his capital?—Yes, not including the merchant's charges; I should think that the 20 *l.* was to be net to the planter to meet all contingencies in the manufacture of sugar.

3648. Have you any knowledge of any estate in Demerara or Essequibo having done that at any time during the last two years; that is to say, paid a remunerating price to the planter?—Yes, I consider that many estates have.

3649. Have you a knowledge of any one?—It was merely a matter of opinion; I have no document to show it, but I have no doubt of the fact.

3650. Mr. *Hawes.*] But you have stated the fact, and named the estate in some of your reports have you not?—In this document I have.

3651. Mr. *Godson.*] Of your own knowledge can you undertake to say that any one estate in Demerara, during the last two years has remunerated the proprietor?—I have not had access to their accounts, and therefore of course I cannot say.

3652. Mr. *Barclay.*] You stated that a hogshead of sugar formerly was 12 cwt., but that gradually it has risen to 24 cwt.?—It is generally considered that the average weight of a hogshead ought to be 16 cwt.; but I have seen hogsheads that weighed upwards of 24 cwt.

3653. Then in speaking of the deficiency of produce, it is not correct to calculate upon the number of hogsheads?—Certainly not.

3654. When you say that the amount of the crop has fallen from 60,000 to 40,000, do you mean that that 40,000 may, in point of weight, correspond with the weight of the former 60,000?—Not so much as that; but the difference in the hogshead would make a considerable difference.

3655. What is the actual deficiency in weight in the gross produce of the colony, compared with the time of slavery?—That I am not prepared to give any calculation of, but the hogshead was at one time 36 inches truss; it rose to 38; it was then 40, and latterly it has been 42.

3656. At what rate per hogshead is your calculation of 20 *l.* a hogshead?—It has nothing to do with the weight of the hogshead; it is the amount per hundred weight; I state it only from information. I once asked a planter what he considered would be a fair remunerating price for his sugar; what would amply pay for the cultivation, and he told me 60 *s.* a hundred weight. I asked how much that would net to him, and was told about 20 *l.*

3657. Have you seen any hogsheads so large as to weigh 24 cwt.?—Yes; I have heard them stated to weigh 26 cwt.

3658. Where have you seen them?—In Demerara.

3659. Mr. *Godson.*] Are you speaking of the weight in the colony, or the weight in England; do you mean to represent that hogsheads have come to England of the net weight, at the scale of 26 cwt.?—No, in Demerara. I know the loss is very great in coming across the Atlantic.

3660. When you are speaking even of a 24 cwt. hogshead, are you speaking of that hogshead net in England, or of its weight in Demerara?—In Demerara.

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3661. Have you any knowledge by which you can give us the drainage of a hogshead of sugar between Demerara and here, upon its voyage?—It would entirely depend upon the time it is kept before it is shipped. It is too much the practice to ship the sugar in a very green state.

3662. Do you know about the average of the loss by drainage?—No, I am not aware of that.

3663. Mr. *Hawes.*] Would not the loss from leakage or wastage be in the same proportion in a hogshead of 15 cwt. as in a hogshead of 25 cwt.?—I know nothing of the proportion.

3664. Mr. *Godson.*] You said that a planter told you, that provided sugar sold at 60 *s.* a cwt., that would net to him about 20 *l.* a hogshead; now out of that 60 *s.* there would be 24 *s.* for duty, the freight would be 5 *s.*; the merchant's charges in this country, including insurance and everything, would be about 3 *s.* a cwt.; that would make 32 *s.* Take 32 *s.* from 60 *s.* and it leaves 28 *s.* Now, if he gets 28 *s.* per cwt., 15 cwt. at 28 *s.* would give 420 *s.*; therefore was not the planter who so spoke of 20 *l.* a hogshead being a remunerative price for sugar speaking of a hogshead of 15 cwt.?—He did not name 20 *l.*, he named 60 *s.* the cwt. which I understood to be about 20 *l.*

3665. Was not that planter speaking of a hogshead of about the net weight of 15 cwt.?—I cannot say to what weight he alluded.

3666. Mr. *Hawes.*] Do you know the amount of the charges?—I know nothing of them.

3667. Mr. *Godson.*] At p. 78 of the Parliamentary Papers, in your return of certain estates, there is one head entitled, "Management, Incidental and other Expenses, with Interest of Capital;" at what rate have you allowed for the interest on capital?—I could not tell the amount of capital expended upon any of those estates, with the exception of one, that is Plantation Prospect, because I knew what the purchase-money of that estate had been.

3668. What interest for the capital did you allow?—I allowed five per cent.

3669. Mr. *Barclay.*] Do not they in Demerara calculate by the 100 lbs., and not by the cwt.?—I think sugar is sold by the Dutch weight of 112 lbs.

3670. Mr. *Hawes.*] What do you conceive to be the principal cause of the distress, and the want of remuneration on the capital employed on sugar estates in Demerara now?—The want of sufficient labour may be one reason of it; and the want of proper management, with regard to the people, may be another cause.

3671. Do you mean the want of a sufficient number of labourers, or that labour itself has latterly become deficient?—I think both.

3672. With regard to the deficiency of labour, do you attribute that to bad management on the part of the proprietary body, or to the want of good laws?—I think a great deal of it may be ascribed to injudicious management.

3673. Will you describe what you conceive to be the injudicious management which you think has operated upon the mind of the labourer, so as to induce him to work less, and less continuously than he used to do?—A great deal of injudicious management may have arisen from the change of managers; one manager bestowing a great deal of labour upon one thing, and being discharged, and then another manager pursuing a course directly opposite.

3674. Has that change of system among the labourers created discontent in any instance?—No doubt it has.

3675. Are they paid money wages regularly?—Yes, tolerably regularly.

3676. Are they paid in paper occasionally?—No, there is no paper there, with the exception of the banks, which is quite equal to the silver coinage.

3677. Is the rate of wages at present paid sufficient to maintain the labourer, without the aid of his provision ground?—It might maintain himself; but it would not maintain himself and his family, if there are many depending upon him.

3678. Then the labourer must devote a portion of labour to his provision ground?—Certainly.

3679. Have not some efforts been made by some of the planters to introduce a system of tenancy?—Yes, that has been proposed; but I have heard, since I came here, that it had been thrown out.

3680. Has there been any effort to improve the cultivation by way of machinery?—The machinery is tolerably perfect almost everywhere.

3681. Since

3681. Since what period has that been improved chiefly?—There has been very little improvement in that since I have been in the country; most of the estates, when I went to the colony, had nearly the same machinery that they have at present; others have improved.

3682. Has there been any objection to the introduction of agricultural implements on the part of the labourers?—No, I believe not.

3683. Is the sale of small lots of land to labourers encouraged or discouraged?—It was very much discouraged at the commencement of freedom; but gradually now a change quite to the contrary has taken place, and most of the proprietors now are willing to sell land. Had they done so at first, the distress of which they complain would probably not have arisen.

3684. Do you recommend, as one remedy for the evils which are alleged to exist, a large and extensive system of immigration?—Not a very large one; I should recommend, if anything of the kind were to take place, that it should be gradual.

3685. But increased in amount beyond what is going on now?—I should say, that if the immigrants had been of a different description, the result would have been very different; but those who were introduced were chiefly Portuguese labourers, and they have not answered.

3686. You are not, then, for an extensive, but a gradual system of immigration?—Yes.

3687. Have you attended at all to the subject, so as to give an opinion whether that system should be carried on under the Government, or left entirely to the wants and enterprise of individuals?—I think it might be left to the wants of individuals, superintended by the Government, to see that nothing improper took place.

3688. What would be the nature of the superintendence you would suggest?—The superintendence of the stipendiary magistrates after they come into the country.

3689. Would you sanction contracts so made before they came into the country?—No, I would sanction none not made in the country; because no man can tell what description of contract he ought to make till he arrives in the country.

3690. You would suggest that the immigrant should be free both to choose his employer and make his contract in the ordinary way, as a freeman?—Yes.

3691. And that the contracts being entered into should be enforced by the ordinary laws?—Yes.

3692. Are the laws sufficient now for the enforcement of such contracts, supposing them to be made?—Yes.

3693. The powers of the stipendiary magistrates are sufficient to give redress for all complaints that may arise out of the violation of such contracts?—Yes.

3694. You have been asked some questions as to the high price of sugar, and you have stated that that has led to a more careless system of cultivation; has any portion of the discontent on the part of the labourers arisen from efforts to enforce a more careful system in consequence of that former neglect?—No; I think that no discontent has arisen from their endeavouring to enforce better labour; in fact it is only since this strike that it has been perfectly understood that the labour should be of a more careful kind than it was before.

3695. The labourers have been willing to assent to regulations of that kind?—Quite so; they have made no objection whatever.

3696. Are there fewer complaints now of the want of continuous labour than there were?—There have been very few complaints, if any, brought officially before me; all that I know of the subject is from conversation, because if such complaints existed, the planters have scarcely ever brought them officially before me.

3697. Sir Henry Light, in a despatch, dated the 4th of December 1841, says, "This report," which was signed by Sir Michael MacTurk, "attributes much of the diminished production of estates to imperfect and irregular labour; and this has in a great degree been owing to a mistrust of the attornies, managers, and planters in the industry of the labourers." Do you concur in that opinion?—I do.

3698. You do not doubt that the labourers themselves are willing to labour, provided they are both protected and paid adequate wages?—I have always seen a full disposition on their part to do any reasonable labour if they were reasonably remunerated.

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3699. And provided the colony could obtain a gradual immigration of labourers under proper circumstances, you think that is all that is required to satisfy the just demands of the colonists?—I think so.

3700. What, in your opinion, would be the effect upon the labouring population, should all the colonies combine for the purpose of introducing a large number of immigrants, for the purpose of operating directly upon the wages of labour?—It might have the effect of inducing them to establish themselves as free labourers entirely, if the wages were diminished to any considerable extent.

3701. Would it not produce very great dissatisfaction?—I think it would.

3702. Would it not lead to a counter combination on the part of the labourers?—It might.

3703. And might lead to still further diminished production from that district?—I think, as far as those in the colony were concerned, it would not increase their industry.

3704. You would not advise any very large and sudden introduction of labourers?—No, for various reasons; particularly as it would be necessary to provide houses to accommodate those people, because it would be very injudicious to introduce a large number of people unless you have made requisite preparations in a country of that kind; and I know much of the dissatisfaction that has arisen with emigrants is from their having been put into large buildings, a number of them together, and not located in the first instance in comfortable and distinct cottages.

3705. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Have not many of the planters already prepared, at great expense, houses for the reception of immigrants?—A great number have improved their cottages to a very considerable extent; the former places occupied by the negroes they have now made into comfortable cottages, but on very few estates is there much room for additional hands.

3706. Mr. *Hawes.*] Have not great evils been known to arise from the want of accommodation fit for the reception of labourers upon their arrival?—I think so; I think a great part of the mortality of the Portuguese originated from that.

3707. Previously to this demand for the importation of labourers, were any steps taken by the people in the colony to provide adequate accommodation?—No; generally speaking, they said, "When we get them we will provide for them, but we do not know the use of erecting houses or cottages till we are certain of having them."

3708. Has the general trade of the colony increased or not?—I think the amount of imports must have very considerably increased.

3709. Do the lands give a better prospect for the next year than they have given in some years of late?—I think they do.

3710. Has the cultivation improved?—The cultivation, I think, is much more carefully attended to. I ought to state that many of those who have withdrawn from labour have established themselves as woodcutters up different parts of the rivers and creeks, and that branch of trade is very likely to be of considerable importance hereafter.

3711. Are there any complaints of the want of money?—Yes, capital is wanted; I have known in some cases that the managers have not had money to pay their labourers.

3712. A bank has been established, has it not?—There are two.

3713. Who are the managers of them?—Mr. Rose is the manager of one, and Mr. Robertson is the manager of the other.

3714. Sir Henry Light states in a despatch of last December to Lord Stanley, that "there has been much financial embarrassment amongst planters and merchants, which, perhaps, may be fully accounted for by the inordinate speculations into which the high prices of colonial produce last year tempted many of the colonists, and for entering into which the local bank, directed by a number of resident merchants and planters, unsafely numerous for so limited a community, afforded great facilities." Have you heard complaints of that kind?—I understand that that has been the case, and that one of the banks has lost very much by it, or is likely to do so.

3715. How stands the law at present regulating contracts between the employer and the labourer?—By an Order in Council dated September 1838.

3716. Are there any amendments you would suggest in that law?—I should extend the definition of the term "master;" I should make it a little more comprehensive.

3717. *Chairman.*]

3717. *Chairman.*] Under that law to which you have just adverted, for what period can a contract by a labourer be made?—Before a magistrate it is 12 months.

3718. Can any binding contract be made without the presence of a stipendiary magistrate?—Yes; for 28 days.

3719. But not for a longer period than that?—No.

3720. Mr. *Hawes.*] With regard to the ejectment of tenants by proprietors, they have ample power to eject any tenant who refuses to work or to pay rent?—They have.

3721. Have they ever exhibited any timidity in ejecting tenants?—I have never known any.

3722. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] In consequence of expected immigration, is it not reasonable and obviously important to the planters to obtain possession of these cottages occupied by labourers who decline to work?—I think it is very desirable that they should obtain them.

3723. *Chairman.*] You mean that it is desirable that they should have the power of re-obtaining the cottages which have been let to labourers, in part payment of their wages?—They do, in fact, resume those cottages at any moment when they please.

3724. At present the rent of the cottage is considered as part of the remuneration of the labourer?—It is.

3725. In fact, part of his wages?—Yes.

3726. And when they cease to work upon the estate, you conceive the master has full right to resume his cottage?—Yes, and he does so.

3727. Do not you think it desirable that the rent paid for the cottage, and the labour done upon the estate, should be under separate and distinct agreements?—Quite so.

3728. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Is the number of labourers who are freeholders greatly increasing?—It is.

3729. Are you aware of many estates upon which the principal part of the labour is performed by labourers not belonging to the estate?—I believe it is in Berbice.

3730. Do not you think that that kind of labour is more likely to be continuous than the labour of persons located upon the estate?—It would be far better if they were completely independent, and the planters might have had that description of labourers now nearly universal, had they sold land in the first instance to the labourers in small lots, and allowed them to erect their own houses; they would not only by so doing have realised a considerable sum of ready money, but they would have avoided the great expense to which they were subjected by erecting new cottages for the labourers.

3731. Are you aware of any estate upon which for a considerable time there has been an adequate supply of continuous labour afforded by persons not resident upon the estate?—I have understood that such has been the case in Berbice; but I have not been intimately acquainted with the estates, but I believe it to be so.

3732. You think that system is upon the increase?—I think it is.

3733. Mr. *Hawes.*] The labourers have erected a great many cottages for themselves?—They have, wherever they have purchased land, and in some places in my district, where they occupy land on lease, they have erected cottages themselves, and the moment their grounds are put into cultivation and their houses finished, they labour universally on the adjoining estate.

3734. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Should emigration take place on a very large scale, and should the present labourers wish to combine to resist a material decrease of wages, would they have it in their power to maintain themselves independently of their employers?—I should think not, because most of them are located upon lots from a quarter to half an acre, and that would not be sufficient to provide them with the necessaries of life, and to clothe them, and educate their children.

3735. Have they not withdrawn their labour in many instances from sugar estates altogether?—No, I should not think they have.

3736. Mr. *Hawes.*] You have stated that the wages are always paid in money; have you never known them paid in paper?—I believe they may have been paid in that way, but a great deal of that may have arisen from the want of change.

3737. Is there anything like the truck system existing in British Guiana, or has it fallen within your knowledge and observation?—It did formerly, but not latterly.

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Now I believe it hardly ever happens that any manager is concerned in a store in selling things, but such did obtain at one time.

3738. That change has been beneficial?—It has.

3739. And it has led to greater contentment and confidence on the part of the labouring population?—No doubt of it.

3740. Are there not certain members of the Court of Policy in British Guiana who are elected?—What is called the College of Keysers, they return two members to the Court of Policy, and the Court of Policy chooses one of those when a vacancy occurs.

3741. Who elect?—The Keysers.

3742. What are they?—There are six or seven of them.

3743. What is the qualification of the Keysers?—I do not know; they are elected for life.

3744. Is there no other elective body?—None, except the financial representatives.

3745. Who elect them?—The tax payers.

3746. All persons paying taxes?—All persons paying direct taxes to the amount of 70 guilders per annum, which is about 5*l.* per annum; or persons of a certain income who may not pay taxes.

3747. Then a free labourer may become an elector?—He may by paying direct taxes to the amount of 70 guilders.

3748. Are there many such now in Demerara?—No, I should think not.

3749. How does it happen that those negroes who have acquired property are not electors?—They must return a certain income. If they return an income to a certain amount, that will make them electors; but I do not believe they send in many returns of that kind.

3750. There has been no difficulty in their making returns of that kind?—No; indeed they are obliged to make them by law. Every person who has a certain income, or who keeps a horse and gig, or anything of that kind, is liable to taxation.

3751. Are they placed upon the list by any government officer?—They send in their returns, and then they are put upon the register, I think, by the accountant-general, which register he publishes, and then they are entitled to vote.

3752. As it has been stated that many of the negroes have purchased considerable landed property, and have acquired considerable wealth, how does it happen that a number of them have not become electors?—I have no knowledge of returns being sent in by them; but I am not aware of any disqualification, if they return an income to a certain amount, or if they return certain articles that pay a direct tax. If they do that, their names are published in the list by the accountant-general.

3753. The Dutch law prevails in Demerara?—Yes, and the English law of evidence.

3754. Have any complaints been made of the want of a code of laws in the colony?—There is great dissatisfaction at the Dutch law still prevailing in the country.

3755. Has any representation to that effect been made to the Home Government?—I think there has. I think there was a petition for doing away the College of Keysers, and that the members of the Court of Policy should be elected the same as the financial representatives.

3756. Has the confusion arising from the Dutch law prevailing, whilst the law of evidence is that of England, created any dissatisfaction?—I think the inhabitants in general are very much dissatisfied with the present law.

3757. How long is it since representations were made to the Home Government upon the subject?—To the best of my recollection, representations went home to that effect last year.

3758. And no reply has been received in the colony, so far as you know?—I think something of the kind was promised. I think the despatch of the Secretary of State was favourable to the change.

3759. Mr. *Godson.*] You made use of the expression that the negroes would work if they had reasonable wages; what amount do you consider as reasonable wages?—I consider the wages they get at present very reasonable.

3760. What are those?—A guilder for the performance of a certain task. A guilder is the third of a dollar, which is 4*s.* 2*d.*

3761. Can they perform two of those tasks in a day?—Yes, they can.

3762. That

3762. That would be two guilders a day?—Yes.

3763. Can they do it within reasonable hours?—That would depend upon the nature of the task; but I think they might do two tasks, generally speaking, in about nine or ten hours.

3764. You are speaking of a full grown strong man?—Yes.

3765. Is there a graduated scale for younger or less efficient labourers?—Gene rally speaking, they are remunerated in proportion to what they do.

3766. How is it that as they get those two guilders a day, you think that is not sufficient wages for them to maintain themselves without having the profit from their provision grounds?—They could not do the two tasks and work at their provision grounds also; but they generally prefer, after performing one task, to work at their provision grounds.

3767. Supposing they had no grounds at all, would not those two guilders be sufficient to maintain them?—I think they would; but then there would be no provisions grown, because they are now almost the only growers of provisions; and, therefore, the price of provisions would rise to such an amount, that the two guilders would not be sufficient.

3768. Unless they were imported from foreign countries?—But the kind of provisions imported are not such as they desire to have. It was always found, when they were fed during the apprenticeship with either rice or corn meal, that either it did not agree with them, or it was very disagreeable to them.

3769. *Chairman.*] Would not that be soon corrected by the independent negroes growing provisions upon their own land, for the purpose of sale?—So they might, if those labourers were established to any considerable extent; but, supposing they were only established in a certain district, and that 10 miles from that there were none at all, the expense of the transport would very much enhance the price of them.

3770. Is there not a tendency, on the part of persons in Demerara, to so establish themselves, and be a sort of market gardeners, carrying things to the nearest places for sale?—I have not seen much of that; it may obtain in the neighbourhood of the towns; but in the country, when they get those small lots, they cultivate them chiefly for their own consumption; and when once they are put into cultivation, they employ themselves in the labour of the estates. I have ascertained that about half an acre of land may be cultivated by about two or three days' labour in a month, and then all their surplus labour must fall into the adjoining estate.

3771. Mr. *Godson.*] Do the labourers in Demerara work sometimes in the morning and then leave off, and not come again the same day; and others again come in the afternoon that did not in the morning, and so on, taking such portions as they think fit for their respective tasks?—No; the general practice is to turn on about eight o'clock, and then they finish the task and go away.

3772. Take the case of a mill in crop-time, when it is necessary that the labour should be continuous; do not they then come for portions of the day?—No; the general system with regard to the mills is to cook one meal of victuals, which they have in the middle of the day, and which they generally eat without leaving the place.

3773. How many hours of continuous labour do they continue at the mills?—The fire is generally put about five o'clock in the morning; the work itself begins about six; a great deal depends upon the quantity of liquor that has been expressed, but the work is generally finished from about seven to eight o'clock; it seldom exceeds nine o'clock.

3774. For such a day's work as that, what does the negro obtain?—He has generally six bitts and a meal ready cooked.

3775. Which is a meal satisfactory to himself?—Yes, he is quite satisfied with it.

3776. We have been told that in Demerara the crop-time continues the whole year round?—I think in a properly-managed estate they can grind the whole year.

3777. Has the negro his choice whether he will go to the mill or to the field?—Not always; they will take their turn at the mill, but they would rather get a guilder in the field, and have the remainder of the time to work elsewhere, or to do an extra task, than to work continuously at the mill.

3778. Has the planter any other means of inducing the negro to work at the mill than that of offering them high wages of half a dollar?—No; he has no other means of obtaining it.

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3779. And that is obtained unwillingly, as far as the negro is concerned?—They would prefer in most cases other work.

3780. Therefore they prefer obtaining less money in the field to working at the mill by which they obtain more money?—Yes; because not only is a much longer period taken up in the performance of the labour, but it is labour of a more violent kind.

3781. And that being so, the planter has no means whatever, except by offering large wages, of obtaining the necessarily continuous labour at the mill?—And the fear of ejectment or discharge in case of his not conforming to his wishes.

3782. Have you ever known any instance of a planter discharging persons from their cottages, because they would go to the field rather than come to the mill?—Yes.

3783. Has that been to any extent?—Not to any very great extent; because the labourers are so averse to leave the estate, and their grounds and their families, they would generally put up with a great deal rather than be discharged.

3784. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is there any heavy stiff land in Demerara?—There is.

3785. Can two tasks a day be performed upon that land?—Much will depend upon the state of the fields, and also upon the way in which the work is taken; during the apprenticeship two tasks could not be performed; but since the work has been taken in a different manner, and not so much insisted upon, two tasks is a very common thing.

3786. There is more work done occasionally by some labourers now than was done formerly in a state of slavery?—It was very rare for two tasks in weeding and moulding to be done; but it is in the cutting of the canes that two tasks are done, which is more popular; I think that if the soil is stiff, and the grass heavy, it would be difficult to do two tasks in a day; when that is the case the negroes will not do two tasks.

3787. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] The negroes are in the habit of procuring certain comforts and luxuries from this country?—They purchase them.

3788. Do many of them drink wine?—Some of them do upon particular occasions, such as baptisms, and marriages, and funerals.

3789. Chiefly Madeira, is it not?—Madeira, or an inferior kind of wine; Teneriffe, and that kind of wine.

3790. Do not they sometimes speak of wine as being necessary to their household comfort?—No, I never heard of that; wine is merely produced upon those particular occasions.

3791. Then they must have it in their possession?—They purchase it at the stores; a bottle, or two or three bottles, according to circumstances.

3792. Has the consumption of rum increased or diminished in your district since emancipation?—It has increased since the establishment of grog-shops.

3793. Do you look upon that as having a demoralising effect upon the negro population?—I do; I think it is one of the worst measures that could be adopted. It has been very recently that those grog-shops were established, when it was made illegal for any planter to give drams to his labourer.

3794. *Chairman.*] You adverted to a recent change in the weight of the hogshead?—Not a very recent one; I said that the hogshead had grown from the time of slavery to the present.

3795. When was it 12 cwt.?—I understood that it had been so during the time of slavery; but as to the particular year, I could not specify.

3796. You alluded to funds in the possession of the negroes, which had been handed over to them by their parents during slavery; how were those funds acquired?—A great deal was acquired by servitude, and even then they kept hogs; and individuals obtained some by the cultivation of their provision grounds and raising feather stock.

3797. Is it your opinion that the negro population in British Guiana is now increasing by natural causes?—Decidedly.

3798. To a considerable extent?—I have given in a return showing the increase of children since complete emancipation, as compared with the time of the apprenticeship and part of slavery.

3799. Is that return founded upon facts ascertained by means of registration?—It is founded upon the census.

3800. Is there any system of registration of births?—There is no registration of births.

Veneris, 10° *die Junii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Godson.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. C. Howard.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Sir Charles Douglas.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Bushe, Esq. called in; and Examined.

3801. *Chairman.*] YOU have lately come from Trinidad?—I left it on the 25th of April.

3802. What is your profession?—I am a proprietor of sugar estates there, and attorney for many others.

3803. What experience have you had in the cultivation of sugar?—I have been connected with sugar estates for 15 years in St. Vincent, and for 15 more in Trinidad, making altogether 30 years.

3804. What do you consider to be the present situation of the sugar planters in the colony of Trinidad?—Last year not one-tenth of the sugar estates paid their expenses; very many of them incurred heavy debts, and this year, assuming sugar to remain at its present price, I do not think one-third of them will pay their expenses.

3805. You mean that you think this year two-thirds of the sugar estates in Trinidad will be cultivated at a loss?—I do.

3806. To what cause, in your opinion are those results to be attributed?—To the want of sufficient and continuous labour, and to the high rate of wages.

3807. That answer rather opens two distinct branches of this subject; do you think that the labour in Trinidad is insufficient in point of the number of labourers?—It is.

3808. To what extent do you think it desirable that the number of labourers in Trinidad should be increased, in order to keep up the present amount of cultivation?—I think 8,000 would keep up the present estates.

3809. The Committee have been informed by other witnesses, that about 10,000 immigrants have been introduced into Trinidad since the commencement of freedom?—There have.

3810. Do you consider that that amount of immigration has been insufficient to compensate for the loss sustained in other ways?—Only 4,000 of those 10,000 ever went to sugar estates, and that has not supplied the place of the old slaves.

3811. By what causes have the old slaves been withdrawn from the labour market?—They have found employment more congenial to their taste.

3812. Are they still in the colony?—They are.

3813. Do they not labour at all?—They do, in other conditions, as hucksters and people about the towns.

3814. They do not labour upon sugar estates at all?—A great number of them have withdrawn.

3815. Do you consider that the actual number of available labourers is now smaller in Trinidad than it was during the period of slavery?—I think there are as many labourers now upon estates as there were in time of slavery, but they do not do so much work.

3816. Supposing you could by any means induce the labourers to give continuous labour, do you think that the present number of labourers would be sufficient without an addition, by means of emigration?—If the present number of labourers did two tasks a day out of crop season, which they could very easily do, that would be enough for the out of crop season; but in crop season there is not a sufficient number of labourers to carry on the work continuously.

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3817. You have stated that the existing number of labourers is as great as it was during slavery?—It is.

3818. If that number was found sufficient during the period of slavery to cultivate the estates, why should it now be insufficient, provided they could be induced to give continuous labour?—Out of crop season, if they gave continuous labour, they would do as much labour as formerly; but in the crop season, they only work now nine hours, while in slavery they worked 18 hours.

3819. Do you mean that they actually worked 18 hours in crop season, exclusively of the time allowed them for rest?—In the time of slavery, they seldom if ever retired to eat their meals; they took it wherever they were, and they very seldom had more than six hours for sleep.

3820. For how long a period was that system maintained?—Up to the end of slavery, in 1834.

3821. For how long a time together was the necessity of that extreme exertion kept up?—For five months in the year, during the crop season.

3822. Do you mean that for five continuous months in the year the labourer was not allowed more than six hours rest in the day?—I do. In many instances they were not allowed more than six hours rest.

3823. What effect did that produce upon the health and duration of life of the labourers?—I cannot say. The negroes decreased decidedly during slavery.

3824. Was it not absolutely inconsistent with the preservation of life and health?—It was light labour about the works. They used to find intervals of sleep during the intermission of work.

3825. Were not the hours of labour regulated, by an Order in Council, in Trinidad at nine hours a day?—Not during slavery, so well as I recollect.

3826. When were they regulated?—At the commencement of the apprenticeship.

3827. Then you think that, as far as regards the crop season, the existing number of labourers will not in any case, however well they might be disposed to work, be sufficient, unless you could induce them to work that great number of hours per day?—It will not.

3828. Supposing that more continuous labour could by any means be exacted from the labourer, both in crop season and out of it, would not the present number of labourers be much nearer sufficient than it is now?—Out of crop season, if they worked for eight hours a day, it would be sufficient. In crop season, I do not think they would work near so much as they did in the time of slavery, to keep up the crop.

3829. Supposing you could induce the existing number of labourers to give continuous labour in the crop season, would not the necessity for additional labour be much diminished?—If they could be induced to work 12 hours a day in crop time, I think a great deal less than 8,000 additional labourers would do. I think 5,000 might do then.

3830. Into the whole colony?—Yes.

3831. Supposing you could induce the existing number of labourers to work 12 hours a day in the crop season, do you think you could keep up the present supply of sugar?—We could not.

3832. Could you make it near what it was in slavery if they worked 12 hours a day?—I think we could make it nearly what it was if they worked 12 hours a day continuously in crop time.

3833. Then you would not require any additional labourers?—If they would work 12 hours a day continuously, and each labourer work six days in the week, we could nearly make the old slave crop then.

3834. With the existing number of labourers?—Yes.

3835. Then under those circumstances, do not you think the want of continuous labour is the principal difficulty under which the planters labour?—I would observe that for those who have no experience in the matter it is almost impossible to conceive how much the manufacture of sugar is prejudiced by the want of a sufficient quantity of labour to perform the whole labour required in manufacturing sugar. On steam-engine estates in Trinidad there are about 60 labourers required to do the day's work. During the crop of the year 1841, I had on one estate all the labourers required for a full day's work, except three cane cartmen; these I could not get at the same rate of wages as the rest of the gang was working at, and in consequence of the want of these three cartmen, I never could make more than two and a half hogsheads of sugar per diem; and this year,

1842, I made three and a half hogsheads per diem with ease. Thus the want of those three men prevented me from making one hogshead of sugar each day, or about 100 hogsheads during the crop, which was consequently lost to the estate. In the cultivation of land, the planters are generally prejudiced by want of a sufficiency of labour to carry on the manufacture of sugar and the weeding of canes simultaneously. One weeding during the dry weather of the crop season, would be better than two weedings after crop, when the rains set in; but such is the want of labourers now that we cannot, in nine cases out of ten, carry on even the manufacture of sugar at full rate. It will be easily conceived, therefore, that we cannot attempt to weed canes or throw out dung at the period of the manufacture.

3836. Have you in operation in Trinidad any contract law for the regulation of labour?—There is one, but I know very little about it. I never contract with any of the labourers.

3837. You are not in the habit of making contracts?—No.

3838. Do you find that the negroes are unwilling to make any written contract?—Very.

3839. Do you think that by adopting any new law upon the subject, without pressing unfairly upon the state of freedom in which the negro now lives, the negroes might be induced to give more continuous labour where they have entered into the employment of the planter?—I do not see how the labourers could be made to work; they are very peaceable and very well conducted; they are content with the wages they acquire at present for a very small quantity of labour, and I do not see how they could be made to do more work than they wish to do, if they behave peaceably.

3840. If such a law could be devised, would it meet the difficulties that exist?—If you could oblige each labourer to work 12 hours a day in crop time, and six days in the week, it would certainly.

3841. Have you adopted in Trinidad the plan so common in the West Indies, of allowing the labourers to live rent free upon your estates?—We have.

3842. You have the management of some estates?—I have, of several.

3843. When did you leave the island?—On the 25th of April last.

3844. Do you find upon the estates of which you have the management, that the negroes reside rent free upon the property, and in return, either give no work at all or a very insufficient quantity of work?—We are not content with a labourer unless he works two days in the week at least. If he does not do that we wish to get rid of him sooner than encumber the houses with such men.

3845. If you find that a labourer, residing upon your estate, will not give you two days' labour in a week, do you eject him?—I have never done so, but I believe it is done in some cases.

3846. Have you allowed labourers to remain resident rent free upon your estate from whom you have been unable to exact two days' labour in a week?—No, they have always done more than two days' labour with me.

3847. You have had no instance in which they have not done more than two days' labour in a week?—No.

3848. Have you known many such instances in the cases of other proprietors?—I have not.

3849. Mr. *Hawes*.] What inducements do you hold out to lead them to do more for you than for others?—The work is given to them by the task, which I believe is as good a way of producing exertion as any way that can be devised.

3850. What is a task?—In the out of crop season, a task is weeding from 3,600 to 6,000 square feet in a day, and that can be done very easily in from three to four hours.

3851. *Chairman*.] How many days in the week do you find your resident labourers will work for you?—Four days in the week on an average.

3852. The greatest number of them?—Yes.

3853. Mr. *Hawes*.] And working two tasks a day?—No.

3854. *Chairman*.] Do you believe it is the general practice on the neighbouring estates that the workmen labour for four days in the week?—I believe it is generally, taking the average of the year.

3855. How much work in a day will those men give you who work four days a week?—They give four hours in the out of crop season, and nine hours in the crop season. They do one task, which takes them four hours, in the out of crop season.

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3856. When you say that in the crop season they work nine hours, do you mean that they do that working by the day, or that they do two tasks?—It is a different kind of labour; we expect they will grind so many gallons of liquor. On a cattle-mill estate we expect them to grind 2,400 gallons; on a steam-engine estate we expect them to grind 4,000 gallons of liquor.

3857. What wages do you pay your own labourers?—Sixty cents a day; 2*s.* 7*d.* sterling.

3858. By the task or by the day?—By the task of four hours out of crop, and nine hours in crop season.

3859. Do the labourers who work about the buildings, in the manufacture of sugar, work by the day?—They work rather by the task; they do so many gallons. If any interruption of the work takes places, if, from want of carts and other things, we cannot get the cane home to the mill, then they will not work above the nine hours.

3860. How much do you pay those men who are engaged in the manufacture; do you pay them higher wages than the field labourers?—No, the same, 2*s.* 7*d.* sterling.

3861. Have they any allowances?—None now; they had a great many till the 1st of January last.

3862. Is not continuous labour much more important, when they are engaged about the manufacture of sugar?—A great deal.

3863. Do you find that they are more willing to work continuously at that time, in consequence of the importance of their labour?—No, I do not think that at any time they work more than four tasks a week.

3864. How do they occupy the time on other days?—They often go to town or stay in their houses and amuse themselves.

3865. What extent of provision ground have you been in the habit of allowing to each labourer?—The quantity on an estate is very large in proportion to the number of labourers.

3866. How many labourers have you residing upon an estate?—Upon a steam-engine estate we require 60 labourers, and upon a cattle-mill estate we require 40 labourers every day; and we are obliged to have 50 per cent. more residing upon the estate than those, that is to say 90 in the one case, and 60 in the other.

3867. Do you reside upon the estate?—No; I live in the town; I visit the estates every week.

3868. Do the labourers earn now more in the nine hours they work in crop time, then they do in the four hours they work out of crop season?—They do not; they have not hitherto done so.

3869. Why is that?—They do not like the work out of crop so well as the in crop work; it is very heavy unpleasant weather; it rains a great deal in the out of crop season.

3870. You think they prefer working nine hours in crop time to working four hours in the other season for the same wages?—I think so.

3871. Mr. *Hawes.*] Do they work for the same wages in both seasons?—They have hitherto done so; we expect that when the present crop is over, we shall be able to reduce the wages to 30 cents.

3872. *Chairman.*] During the crop season is not the field labour divided into tasks?—We have no field labour in the crop season, except cutting canes.

3873. How is that done?—We pay by the acre.

3874. Do you find that you stand in need of more labourers in crop time than are residing upon the estate; do you hire labourers from other quarters?—We do to cut the canes.

3875. They are the persons who work by the job?—They work by the acre.

3876. But all the work upon the estate, except the cane cutting in crop time, is done by the resident labourers?—It is.

3877. Have you ever tried a system of payment of rent by your labourers?—No, we never have.

3878. Have you ever yourself tried the system, or did you ever hear of its being tried in Trinidad, of making men pay a rent or fine on those days when they do not work for the estate?—We never have adopted such a system in Trinidad.

3879. In consequence of the distress which the planters in Trinidad have lately suffered, have any estates been abandoned?—There have; I have abandoned two myself.

3880. When was that?—One this last year, and one immediately after 1838, after the apprenticeship ceased.

3881. Mr. *Hawes.*] Where were those estates?—One was at Pont à Pierre, and the other at Orapouche.

3882. Can you state the name of the special justice of the district?—Mr. David is one and Mr. Knox the other.

3883. *Chairman.*] Have you sold the estates?—We sold the land of one of them, the other is not sold; it is not doing anything; we sold the land of the first to a neighbouring estate.

3884. You sold the estate in fact?—In one instance, not in the other.

3885. Did you sell it at a very reduced price, as compared with the original purchase-money?—We sold it for almost nothing; we only got 1,200 *l.* sterling for it.

3886. What was the value of the estate during slavery?—The owner paid 8,000 *l.* sterling for it.

3887. Is the estate cultivated now?—No, it is not; there are a few acres of it cultivated with canes, near the gentleman's works that bought it.

3888. Is the estate totally unoccupied, and the land uncultivated?—Totally; the buildings have gone to pieces.

3889. What became of the machinery?—That gentleman sold it piecemeal, and used some of it on his own estate.

3890. Was it mortgaged?—No, the gentleman mortgaged it when he purchased it, but it was not mortgaged before.

3891. What became of the other estate?—It is totally abandoned.

3892. Uncultivated and unoccupied altogether?—Altogether.

3893. Have you had any instances in Trinidad of negroes renting estates?—Not sugar estates.

3894. Renting land?—They rent a great deal of land, and we are very anxious that they should hire a small portion of land on the border of the estate, and build a house on it with their own means.

3895. Has that custom become very common of late?—Very common of late.

3896. Have any of those abandoned estates been used in that way?—I do not know of any.

3897. Do you know any instances of negroes purchasing estates?—Small lots of land; not estates.

3898. Have you ever known any instances of their cultivating sugar upon any estate that they have either rented or purchased?—Never.

3899. In your opinion, what would be the best remedy for the state of distress in which the planters in Trinidad are at present?—I cannot conceive any other remedy except immigration.

3900. You do not anticipate the possibility of a contract law for the regulation of labour which would meet the difficulty?—I do not think it would meet the difficulty.

3901. Of the 10,000 immigrant labourers who have come to Trinidad, you said that only 4,000 have taken to work upon the estates; what has become of the other 6,000?—A great number have gone to the towns; the towns have increased very much.

3902. How do they maintain themselves?—By shopkeeping, and needlework, and taverns, and a great number of domestic servants; almost all the domestic servants in the colony are new people.

3903. Do they all remain in the colony?—Almost all; they very seldom leave the colony after once coming there to settle.

3904. What do you think would have been the result if you had had no immigration into the colony since freedom commenced?—I think we should only have produced half the sugar we are now producing.

3905. What has been the difference in the production of sugar since emancipation?—It has fallen off 20 per cent.

3906. Have you had any unfavourable seasons?—No; particularly favourable.

3907. To what cause do you attribute that falling off of 20 per cent. in the produce?—Entirely to the falling off of labour.

3908. What effect do you find that the immigration of large bodies of labourers has produced upon those who were previously in the colony?—I think they have become much more industrious than they were immediately after the emancipation; they work much better than they did; they are greatly improving in that respect.

3909. When you say that it is necessary to introduce 4,000 labourers annually, upon what plan would you recommend that they should be introduced; do you think

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think the means of the colony are sufficient to defray the cost?—There is 15,000 *l.* sterling laid aside for immigration for this year, which would be quite enough for the next 12 months.

3910. From the public funds of the colony?—Yes, from the export duties on sugar.

3911. Do you mean that the want of sufficient and continuous labour makes the labour which the planter does obtain of much less value to him than it used to be?—Yes, I do; for the reasons I have stated before.

3912. Have you ever tried the inducement of higher wages?—The wages were formerly a great deal higher than now; we used to make very large allowances indeed up to the crop of 1842.

3913. What were the allowances?—We gave them a pint of flour, half a pound of pork, half a pound of fish, and two glasses of rum a day besides.

3914. Was that given every day?—We gave that every day up to the crop of 1841 inclusive.

3915. Is that wholly discontinued?—It was wholly discontinued in the crop of 1842.

3916. Have you made any consequent difference in the amount of the money wages to compensate for that?—None.

3917. What did you estimate the value of those allowances to be?—We used to estimate the cost of them at about 20 cents; that is, about 11 *d.* sterling per day.

3918. Have you found that your having withdrawn those allowances has at all increased the difficulty of procuring labour?—So far from it, I think they work far better now than they did then.

3919. Did you find that the allowance of rum had a demoralising effect upon the labourers?—I think it had the worst effect it is possible to conceive.

3920. Do you find that the negroes have any tendency to drunkenness, generally speaking?—No, there is not one in ten of them given to drink.

3921. You do not think they are more unwilling to work in consequence of the reduction of the allowance?—I think they work a great deal better now than they did before.

3922. Do you think that, supposing either your supply of labour were greater, or that you could induce them to work more continuously, so as to enable you to reap better crops, you could afford to pay the present rate of wages?—I am convinced the poorest estates could not do it. I do not think half the estates in the island could pay the wages at present at the current price of produce in Great Britain.

3923. You consider that the present wages are higher than they can afford?—I do, for the poor estates; not for the rich. I conceive that if the wages are not reduced, one-third of the estates in the island will be thrown out of cultivation, and that the managers and overseers at present employed will go and seek employment in Porto Rico and Cuba, and other slave colonies.

3924. You entertain that opinion without reference to any possible increase in the supply of labour, or rendering labour more continuous?—If the wages of labour remain at their present rate, I think that must be the result.

3925. You think they can in no case afford the present wages?—With the present prices of sugar, the poor estates can in no case support the present wages.

3926. What induced you to effect the reduction of wages you have done, by withdrawing the allowances?—I found it perfectly ruinous. The losses were so general, that a great many of the home proprietors sent us word that if the expenses could not be reduced, the estates must be abandoned, for they would not consent that in future any estate should be carried on that could not pay its own expenses; and the proprietors and attorneys had a meeting in consequence, and it was settled that from the 1st of January last we would pay the wages, and no allowances.

3927. Have you attempted any further diminution of the money wages?—We have not done so; we intend to try to diminish the wages to 30 cents., or 1*s.* 5*d.* sterling, after crop season, which will be the 1st of June instant.

3928. Do you anticipate that you will have any difficulty in effecting that reduction?—I think there will be a very great deal of difficulty without more immigrants come in.

3929. In what shape do you think the difficulty will arise?—The laourers will not work for it.

3930. Do you think that, at the reduced wages of labour, the negro will be able to maintain himself comfortably with four days' labour a week?—He could live comfortably, but not so well as he does at present; but it will have a tendency

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of inducing them to work more tasks a week, perhaps to the extent of 50 per cent., and thereby keep up their present income.

3931. Do you think the labourers could afford to withdraw altogether, in the way you contemplate as possible, from labour; how could they maintain themselves?—They could always get plenty of ground provisions to support themselves if they like it; for it is a very singular fact, that one person in Trinidad that dedicated his whole time to growing plantains, would raise vegetable food enough to feed 250 people.

3932. Where are they to grow those provisions?—In any part of the island; a sandy alluvial soil is best for plantains.

3933. Supposing you attempted a further reduction of wages; in that event you seem to anticipate a danger that the negroes will desert the work altogether?—Unquestionably I think they would, if the reduction was pushed too far.

3934. In that event you would eject them from their houses and provision grounds?—I would.

3935. Then to what houses or provision grounds can they betake themselves?—They could not immediately betake themselves to any without inconveniencing their friends upon their own settlements.

3936. In that case would they not for their own maintenance be under the necessity of accepting the reduced wages?—After a time they would, but they might continue without working for some time.

3937. You think that at the wages you contemplate, they would be able to maintain themselves, provided they laboured every day in the week?—I think they could maintain themselves very well indeed.

3938. Do you think it possible that the difficulties of which you complain might be remedied in some degree, by the planters following out the plan you have now suggested of reducing wages till they find a fair level which the one could afford to pay, and upon which the other could fairly live?—If the planters stuck together, it would. If there was a positive order sent from the proprietors here, and those that were there were very determined about it, it could be done.

3939. Would it be generally for the interest of the planters to enter into a fair understanding of that sort, and not to carry on that sort of race of competition with one another, to get each other's labourers away from neighbouring estates?—We have tried to do that but there are many planters that will not come into it.

3940. So far as that plan has been carried, has it been successful?—It has had the success of doing away with the allowances.

3941. That was the way in which you did away with the allowances?—That was the way in which we did away with the allowances, but we experienced great difficulty.

3942. And it is upon some similar plan that you contemplate a further reduction of wages?—Yes.

3943. Have you had much reason to complain of the slovenly manner in which the tasks have been executed by the labourers?—They do not do their tasks so well as they did formerly.

3944. Where they have done them badly, have you appealed to the stipendiary magistrate for protection?—No I have not; the task was never done so negligently as to require that.

3945. Have you been at all influenced in putting up with imperfect work, such as it has been, by the dread of losing their labour if you complained of the manner in which they executed their work?—We have been very much influenced by that feeling.

3946. From whence have your emigrants principally come?—Some from North America, but mostly from the old islands, such as Grenada, Nevis, St. Kitt's, and Antigua.

3947. Have you had many from Sierra Leone?—Only 180.

3948. When you say from North America, you mean negro emigrants?—Yes.

3949. What do you find to be the best and the most valuable class of labourers among the emigrants?—Those 180 from Sierra Leone are the best we ever had; I did not have any of them myself, but a friend of mine has told me that he would rather have the 20 of those people that he has than 40 of the old negroes, for they invariably do two tasks a day, or 12 tasks a week.

3950. How long have they been in the colony?—Ten or 12 months.

3951. And up to this time you find that description applies to them?—Up to the very hour I left they were esteemed the best labourers in the colony.

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3952. Do they receive the same wages as the other labourers?—Yes.

3953. Do they receive the same accommodation in respect of houses and grounds?—Yes.

3954. Have you found that the emigrants from other colonies have been better labourers than your resident workmen?—They are just about on a par.

3955. How have you found the North American emigrants?—They can do an immense deal of work; so much so, that one of them did five tasks in a day, and gained 10*s.* a day for some time upon one of my estates, but they generally withdraw from agricultural labour and turn to be shopkeepers, or roadmakers or tavern-keepers.

3956. Are they both physically stronger and more intelligent men than your own labourers?—That man was certainly physically stronger, and they are certainly more intelligent.

3957. Are they, for the most part, more powerful men?—I should say they are; they are a larger race of men.

3958. In how many hours did he do that number of tasks?—Fifteen hours. In the first place that work was done in the dry season, when it is much easier than in the wet season; and secondly, we were not very particular about the work being done very well; we were in great want of it.

3959. Mr. *Hawes.*] When was it?—In the crop of 1841.

3960. *Chairman.*] You mean that they withdraw from agricultural labour because, being intelligent men, they can make more money in other pursuits?—They can.

3961. Do you find that the North American emigrants who do agricultural labour can do more work than your own resident labourers?—As long as they continued as agricultural labourers, though some of them were not brought up to it, they always did more work.

3962. And the man you have mentioned was in the habit of doing more than the other labourers?—He was a slave in the United States, and escaped to Canada, and from Canada he got to us.

3963. Mr. *Hawes.*] Could he have continued to labour long at that rate?—He continued four months, but it certainly was overwork.

3964. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the population of Trinidad has been increasing to a great extent by natural causes?—I think so. I never saw finer children, or such a number of them.

3965. Are you of opinion that the general condition of the negro, both moral and physical, has been improved since the commencement of freedom?—Physically it has been improved, and I think, morally.

3966. Have they had abundant means of education and religious instruction?—To a great extent.

3967. Was Christianity general amongst them before emancipation?—Universal.

3968. Have the means of religious worship increased since emancipation?—Very much indeed.

3969. Are they better attendants at church?—I think they are beginning to attend very well.

3970. Are marriages increased?—Decidedly, very much.

3971. What are the police regulations in Trinidad?—The police system is taken from the mother country.

3972. You have a sufficient police?—Quite sufficient.

3973. Consisting for the most part of negroes?—Almost all; some Irishmen.

3974. Mr. *Hawes.*] You stated that at the period of slavery you obtained 18 hours' work?—In some cases; but I must mention that we paid for the extra labour, because there was an Order in Council, which was not very much attended to, but we paid for the extra labour.

3975. You obtained 18 continuous hours of labour?—Sixteen was very common; but in some cases 18.

3976. Would 16 be a fair average?—I think 16 was a fair average.

3977. What do you conceive to be a fair average now?—Nine in crop season, and four out of crop season.

3978. That difference alone, of course, will account for a great falling off in the production of sugar?—Very great.

3979. It was not to be expected, of course, that a free labourer would work to the extent of a slave?—Certainly not.

3980. When emancipation was carried, it was to be expected that there would be a falling off in the time devoted to sugar cultivation by the labourers?—Yes.

3981-2. Were any means taken by the proprietors in Trinidad to induce the labourers to work for wages upon the cessation of apprenticeship system?—Only by giving very high wages, and very great allowances.

3983-4. What were the wages that you gave, and the allowances together at that time?—The wages were 60 cents, and the allowances 20 cents, making 80 cents, making together 3*s*. 5*d*. sterling per task of four hours out of crop, and nine hours in crop.

3985-6. Then you gave them 3*s*. 5*d*. a day when they became free labourers?—We did.

3987-8. What are the wages now?—Sixty cents; 2*s*. 7*d*.

3989-90. Minus the allowances, amounting to 11*d*.?—No, 2*s*. 7*d*. sterling, and no allowances.

3991-2. You have reduced the wages, therefore, by the amount of 11*d*. a day?—We have, by withdrawing all allowances.

3993-4. Has that produced any change?—They work more than they did.

3995-6. Notwithstanding the reduction of wages, they still continue to labour?—Yes, more than they did.

3997-8. Is it your opinion that the wages now paid will not be continued by the proprietors of the sugar estates?—If they are obliged to continue those wages one-third of the estates in the island must be abandoned; they cannot pay their expenses.

3999. Do you know of any more than those two estates being abandoned of which you have spoken?—Yes, a great many more.

4000-1. Can you name them?—There is one in Cedros that I know of.

4002. Can you name any other?—There is another at Guapo.

4003. Have they been advertised in the local papers for sale?—I do not know that they were ever advertised.

4004. You were understood to say, that there were a great number of estates that you know that have been abandoned?—There are some, not a great number; at Point à Pierre there are six contiguous estates abandoned.

4005. How many; half a dozen?—I should think a dozen.

4006. Have they been advertised for sale in the local papers?—I never saw them advertised.

4007. Has any effort been made to sell them?—Yes.

4008. Apart from advertising, what means have been taken to sell them?—It was generally known that they were to be abandoned; and that if any one would purchase them, they were to be sold.

4009. They have been abandoned?—Yes.

4010. Do they exceed half a dozen?—Yes, more than half a dozen; a dozen at least.

4011. What has become of the labourers upon the estates which have been abandoned?—They have generally gone to other estates.

4012. Then other estates have had the benefit of their labour?—Yes.

4013. And the labour has become more concentrated?—Yes.

4014. And probably more productive?—Yes.

4015. You have stated that the poor estates especially, will not be able to continue in cultivation at the present rate of wages?—I think so, decidedly.

4016. What price must sugar be at to maintain these poor estates in cultivation?—I have not made any calculation of that.

4017. But at the present price of sugar you think they must go out of cultivation?—Yes, I am convinced they must.

4018. What do you consider the present price of sugar?—About 60*s*.

4019. You mean 60*s*. in London, duty paid?—Yes.

4020. Then with sugar at the price of 60*s*. in London, duty paid, those estates must go out of cultivation?—I think one-third of the estates, if the wages are not lowered.

4021. The labour upon those estates would of course, as in the other cases, be concentrated upon the remaining estates?—It would.

4022. And you think that the managers of those estates would go to Porto Rico or to Cuba?—Yes, or to the United States.

4023. Where they would get better employment than they could in Trinidad?—Where they would get the same employment, when it is impossible to find it in Trinidad. They are fit for nothing but planters.

4024. The soil in Trinidad is in general good, is not it?—There is as fine soil in Trinidad as any in the world; there is a great deal of indifferent soil too.

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4025. But, generally speaking, it is a productive soil?—The quarter of Naparima is very productive; one day's labour there will produce as much sugar as two and a half will in some other quarters.

4026. That is the district where Mr. Knox is the stipendiary justice, is it not?—It is.

4027. Is it in that district that any estates have been abandoned?—None there.

4028. Which is the district where the estates have been abandoned chiefly?—Point à Pierre is one of the greatest, and Orapouche, Cedros, and Guapo.

4029. Who is the stipendiary justice in that district?—Mr. David is in Point à Pierre.

4030. Has that fact been reported in any of the papers laid before Parliament?—I am not aware.

4031. Has any effort been made to plant canes by halves, as it is called; that is, the labourer and the proprietor jointly sharing the produce?—There has not.

4032. Has there been any attempt to let any of those estates to negroes in the way of rent?—I do not think there is a labourer in the island that would have capital or skill sufficient; there are coloured people that have had education that are owners of estates.

4033. Is there any want of capital in Trinidad?—No.

4034. You think there is no want of capital to purchase an estate if it would pay, with the price of sugar at 60 *s.*?—None; English capital would be trusted to people to buy it on mortgage; a planter could get support for any estate that could pay at the present moment.

4035. You have stated that the wages were 3*s.* 6*d.* a day at the period of emancipation, including allowances; that has never been increased?—It never was higher than that.

4036. What was the price of sugar then?—In the year 1840 it was 83*s.*

4037. Then those high wages were paid when sugar was at a very high price?—They were paid then and from the period of emancipation.

4038. At what price was sugar when you first gave those wages?—Not much higher than it is now.

4039. How came you to give those high wages then?—Opposition between one and the other; it was a new thing, and we could not tell how much we could afford, and we all hoped to make a profit even at those wages; we had no experience in the matter then.

4040. You have been asked some questions with regard to the expediency of reducing wages still further, and you stated that it had been suggested that there should be some combination amongst the proprietors; will you have the goodness to explain the nature of that combination, and the point to which you think wages should be reduced?—I think that unless wages are reduced, one-third of the estates in Trinidad must give up cultivation, for they will not pay their expenses. I think it must be done by the greatest part of the proprietors, both at home and abroad, being determined not to give more.

4041. You do not require any law on the subject?—I think it is much better having no law upon the subject.

4042. You would leave the parties to find out the proper rate of wages by their own interest?—Yes, I think that is the best course.

4043. In fact, you would leave things as they are?—I would, as to making any law respecting wages.

4044. In the period of slavery, were you not subject to great expenses, quite distinct from wages and allowances?—There were clothes given to the slaves.

4045. And medical attendance?—We give that now, and medicines besides the wages.

4046. And you had to sustain the poor?—Yes, the few that did not work; we gave the same allowances as to others who did work.

4047. But that has all been saved since the abolition of slavery?—We pay none now but the person that labours.

4048. The whole of those allowances have now ceased?—Yes, I think everything except the medical attendance and medicines.

4049. Medical attendance and medicines you do not estimate at much per head per week?—It is two dollars per annum for each labourer. We contract with a doctor to attend the estate; if we have 60 labourers, we give him 120 dollars.

4050. You also save all the expense of rearing your labourers?—We have saved the salt-fish and the jacket and the trowsers, and the shirt and the hat, which amounted to about 2 *l.* sterling for each negro a year.

4051. All the expense of rearing, and of clothing the aged and infirm, and of maintaining, and all other expenses incidental to a state of slavery, have now been saved?—They have; but they were very small in Trinidad, because it was a new colony, and there were very few but working people upon the estates.

4052. Do you maintain a hospital now?—The negroes will not go into a hospital; the doctor is obliged to go to their own house to them; they like it much better.

4053. But a hospital was provided in the period of slavery?—Yes, but the cost was very trifling.

4054. Do you pay the expense of funerals now?—No.

4055. Are you at all acquainted with the papers laid before Parliament in 1831, called "Statements, Calculations, and Explanations, submitted to the Board of Trade, relating to the Commercial, Financial, and Political State of the British West India Colonies"?—No.

4056. Do you know Mr. Robert Neilson?—I do.

4057. Is he still in Trinidad?—No; he has retired to the United States, to Philadelphia.

4058. He makes a statement in these papers of the expenses incidental to a labourer in the time of slavery, and he then goes on to state: "from this amount of capital it will be found that a return of upwards of 20*s*. per cwt., in addition to the contingent expenditure, is required to give the proprietor a moderate per centage on his capital." Can you give the Committee any information as to that calculation of 20*s*. a hundred weight?—I cannot.

4059. You think the statement must be erroneous?—Yes; it was always a paying business in old time upon sugar estates.

4060. Under what law are you placed in Trinidad; English or Spanish, or Spanish and English intermixed?—Spanish is the law of the country, but a great number of English laws have been introduced by Orders in Council.

4061. Has any inconvenience been found with regard to regulating contracts between masters and labourers, in consequence of the present state of the law?—No, I do not know any.

4062. Are written contracts entered into?—Very seldom, except at work in cutting woods in gangs by the acre; nine-tenths of them are verbal.

4063. In fact, the man is hired for the week?—The man is hired by the day, and those people are hired to cut the canes, or to cut the woods by the acre.

4064. Has the general trade of the island increased since emancipation?—Greatly.

4065. Do you still import provisions?—The whole of the towns are supplied by imported provisions; plantains from the Spanish Main, and yams from Grenada.

4066. You stated, in reference to the accounts which were put into your hands, dated in the year 1831, that sugar estates were flourishing then in Trinidad?—In 1831 I forget whether prices were high; but taking it for any period, of five years, they were very remunerating at that time.

4067. In 1832, in the evidence of Mr. Marryat, you perceive he states as follows: "Notwithstanding the produce of the Crown colonies is, upon the average, greater per negro than that of the chartered colonies, I believe an equal distress prevails there, as in the old colonies. In the accounts of the several estates which I have made up for the last year, I find that the estates in Trinidad have lost more than those in Grenada, notwithstanding the greater productiveness of the former." And then he goes on to give particulars of certain estates in that island?—I am not aware of any distress in 1831 or 1832.

4068. You know, however, that there has scarcely been any period when we have not had complaints of distress from the West Indies?—No doubt, frequently there has been just cause for doing so.

4069. At many various periods, have there not been complaints as loud and as extensive of distress as those at the present period?—I do not think they ever were so loud or so extensive or so well founded at any period before, that I recollect.

4070. In 1823 a petition was presented by Mr. Marryat to The House, from the proprietors and planters of Trinidad, which declared the existing distress to be such that, on a capital of 9,000,000 *l*. invested in the colony, not one per cent. interest, on the average, had been received in the last year, nay, even a loss had been incurred. Do you know anything of that?—I cannot say anything of that; I did not at that time reside in the colony.

4071. In fact, you do not know anything of the early history of the investment of capital in Trinidad, do you?—Not before 1829.

4072. You went to the colony to undertake the management of estates in 1829?—I went in 1829.

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4073. A few years previous to emancipation?—Yes.

4074. You have stated that the means of religious worship are greatly increased; do the negroes subscribe to chapels?—I do not think they do.

4075. You are not aware of their having subscribed to chapels or schools to any great extent?—I am not aware.

4076. Are you acquainted with any of the missionaries in the island?—I am not.

4077. You have not communicated with them at all?—I have not seen any of them.

4078. You have stated that you give an unlimited quantity of land to your labourers?—We do.

4079. You make no bargain as to the quantity?—No.

4080. And you enter into no contract with them as to the cultivation?—No; on my estates they cultivate very little. In Trinidad there are Spaniards who have canucos; that is, little places for provisions, which are situated on the banks of rivers; and they grow plantains; and a man in Trinidad can, for 2½*d.*, purchase as much plantains and vegetable food as he can eat in a day; so that it has never been a great object to cultivate land for provisions.

4081. Is the district of Carrapichaima that in which you say the soil is inferior?—It is inferior; I do not know the district well.

4082. Are the estates which have been abandoned there?—No, in the district of Point à Pierre I know six estates adjacent to each other that have been abandoned.

4083. It is stated by a stipendiary justice, in the district of Carrapichaima, that "Some of the more intelligent of the labourers are wishful of becoming freeholders, and one or two proprietors are disposed to sell out parcels of land, but nothing has as yet been effected in this way." Is there any difficulty thrown in the way of sales of land to labourers?—Quite the contrary; every person is anxious that they should purchase a lot of land upon the borders of an estate, as they think it will be the means of procuring some labour.

4084. How does it happen that the labourers being desirous of becoming freeholders, and the proprietors being anxious to sell, there has not been a bargain made?—There has been a great deal of land sold in that way lately.

4085. In that district?—I do not know about that district.

4086. Viscount *Howick.*] You said that a reduction of wages is necessary to prevent a third of the estates being thrown out of cultivation; do you conceive that if such a reduction were effected, the labourers, by increasing the amount of work they do in the week, could still live as well as they do at present?—By increasing the quantity of their labour in the week, they could live as well as they do now.

4087. Would the increase of labour necessary for that purpose be such that they would work harder than labouring men in England usually do?—No, not anything near so hard; if they doubled their labour, I do not conceive they would work so much as people in England, or Ireland, which I know more particularly.

4088. Judging from the effect of a further reduction of wages, you believe that if the proprietors could agree together to make a general reduction of wages, its effect would be that the labourers would work more continuously than they do at present?—Yes.

4089. But you find it is difficult for the planters to agree at present upon such a reduction of wages?—Some of them agree at first willingly enough, but when they find their estates abandoned by the labourers, when they find the negroes oppose it, and their estates not working, they generally give way.

4090. And you think that must be expected to be the case so long as the competition for labour is so great in proportion to the supply?—It must.

4091. No agreements of that kind can ever be permanently kept up in that state of things?—None ever have.

4092. You said that unless some reduction is made in the present expenses upon estates, a large proportion of them must go out of cultivation. Do you think anything that can be done in the way of reducing the public burthens there, would assist the planters?—Very little; they are very light.

4093. The present taxation is very light, is it?—It is about 250*l.* sterling for a large steam-engine estate of from 260 to 300 hogsheads.

4094. If the burthens could be reduced by some change in the nature of the taxation, and the planter were relieved from this charge, it would be an item of some

some consequence in his annual expenditure?—Of some consequence, certainly; but it is very trifling in proportion to the wages.

4095. Is there any other mode in which the expenses of the planter could be reduced; such as by the improvement of the roads, and the means of conveyance?—I think it could be a good deal decreased by the proprietors of estates in England sending out educated people to become planters there, and lower the wages of the managers and overseers, which are enormously high at present; a manager's salary and allowances is a better thing at this moment than a captain's pay in the army.

4096. None of those managers have yet undertaken to rent the estates and manage them on their own account?—Very few of them.

4097. It is still a system of absentee management by deputy, instead of management by a person interested in the result of his own management?—I think two-thirds of the estates in Trinidad belong to resident proprietors, and the other third to English proprietors.

4098. Two-thirds belong to proprietors who are resident upon them, and manage them themselves?—They do not manage them themselves, they have managers under them; they superintend the management, but they inspect very sharply the estates.

4099. Are you at all acquainted with the state of Cuba and Porto Rico?—Only by report.

4100. In those colonies the majority of the estates are managed, or at least superintended, by the owners; are they not?—In Porto Rico I think the proprietors are almost all resident, as I understand.

4101. And in Cuba the same?—I do not know much about Cuba.

4102. Do not you conceive that in some degree accounts for the more economical and profitable management of the estates?—It may, in some degree; there is decidedly a vast difference; an European proprietor there cannot do his business on the same terms as a resident proprietor.

4103. Is not the cultivation and management generally inferior when it is not superintended by a person interested in the result?—I think so.

4104. There is less enterprise and less economy?—Decidedly.

4105. A person acting for another cannot take upon himself the responsibility which a person acting for himself may do?—Certainly, and there is so much money expended for the cost of management, which, if the proprietor lived upon his estate, might be saved. On the other hand, the present managers have not funds or means sufficient to rent estates, and they could not carry them on for want of capital on so cheap a rate as the proprietors. It has been frequently remarked, that managers often make bad proprietors, and that proprietors on undertaking the management of their own estates, succeed very badly.

4106. You have spoken of one district in Trinidad as being extremely fertile; is that very fertile district entirely occupied at present?—Very nearly so, at least six miles from the shore; it is only on the shore that it is so very fertile.

4107. Is the reason why it is not occupied further inland than that, because the expenses of conveyance are so large?—They have not the labour to cultivate it further inland. Of course the land on the shore and on the banks of the rivers will be cultivated first, and then as the population increases, the cultivation extends.

4108. Is it the deficient means of conveyance that has induced persons rather to cultivate estates in some of the poorer districts, than further back in this fertile district?—It is; they would be obliged to build new works upon the new estates, and to go to an enormous expense in carting the produce. The colony of Trinidad is very large; they say there are a million of acres there that are fit for sugar cultivation, but that there are not 20,000 acres of sugar cane at this moment in the whole island.

4109. You have said that the North American labourers were superior in intelligence to the other labourers in the island or to the other immigrants. Did they all remain in the island who came there?—Very nearly all.

4110. Do you know whether their friends and relations are likely in any numbers to join them there?—Three Quaker gentlemen came from Baltimore to inquire into the state of Trinidad, and they were very well satisfied with the examination of it, and said that they would be the means of sending out a great number of labourers.

4111. You think that there is likely to be an increased supply of labourers from North America?—I do.

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4112. And when the number increases, probably some of them will devote themselves to agricultural labour?—They will.

4113. Because other employments will be pretty well filled?—Certainly.

4114. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] In what respect would the expenses of an estate be reduced, if managed by the proprietor?—If the proprietor resident upon the estate was competent to be a planter himself, he would have no salary or allowances to pay the manager, which amounts to about 1,600 dollars a year, and of course he would see that every day's labour he paid for, was really performed and well performed.

4115. That you think a manager would not do?—I think they are often very careless about that, and pay for work that is not well done.

4116. Then the chief saving would be in the manager's salary?—A great saving in the manager's salary and a great saving in getting a proper quantity of work well done for the money that is now paid in wages. But to become a proprietor of a sugar estate requires very considerable capital, varying from 10,000 *l.* to 30,000 *l.* sterling, and few persons possessed of such property will be found willing to undertake the very arduous and laborious duties of a manager; or capable of doing so by previous habits and education.

4117. Mr. *Hawes.*] Would not he save the salary of the attorney also?—Yes, that is a considerable expense too; the attorney generally expects 50 *l.* sterling a year for each estate; but a proprietor residing on his own estate, would require a town agent.

4118. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Do you know any estates managed by the owners where the return has been decidedly greater than of those managed by agents?—I think in the trying year, which was the year 1841, there were many owners who paid their expenses. They were fortunate in this respect; they got a high price, seven dollars and a half for the sugar they sold, whereas other proprietors sent their sugar to England, and netted only about five dollars.

4119. You attribute their success that year to their obtaining those high prices?—Yes, and to the saving in the manager's salary, and to their sharper looking after the work.

4120. Mr. *Bankes.*] Do you think that labourers coming from the United States would be satisfied with a lower rate of wages than what is paid now?—They are very avaricious; I do not think they would be so well satisfied.

4121. Do you think you could procure them at a lower rate of wages than that which is paid now?—I do not think they are very likely to come. I do not think that is a source from which many can be obtained.

4122. You think that if more labourers were introduced into the colony, the result would be that, for the same rate of wages you would have a greater degree of work done?—Yes.

4123. And in point of fact, therefore, that would amount to a less rate of wages?—It would.

4124. When you state that you consider it necessary, in order to make the estates under the present system productive, a less rate of wages should be agreed upon, do you consider that if a greater amount of work could be procured for the same rate of wages, the object that you have adverted to would be obtained?—It would; if 50 per cent. more work were performed by the same labour as now, the object would be attained.

4125. Mr. *Hawes.*] What was the price of free labour in the period of slavery?—There was very little free labour, except for the purpose of cutting wood or cutting canes. We never procured them by the day's work.

4126. Can you make any comparison or not between the wages paid to a free labourer then and now?—I think it was about the same; we paid the same for cutting canes as at this moment.

4127. Mr. *Barclay.*] You stated that last year not one-tenth of the estates paid their expenses. Do you allude to 1840?—1841. We reckon the year from the 1st of July of one year to the 1st of July of the next year.

4128. You have stated that not one-third of the estates have paid their expenses this year. Have you taken into consideration the high price of sugar in England?—I have, it is much higher; that is the thing that has helped us.

4129. If such is the case, are you likely to abandon other estates?—We now manage three that we must abandon if we do not get more labour for our money.

4130. You spoke of having sold one estate, not the other. Have you tried to sell the other?—I have.

4131. And you have not been able to find a purchaser?—Not any.

4132. And it is your opinion, that at the present wages, if continued, one-third of the estates will be abandoned?—Yes.

4133. You intend to reduce the wages from 60 cents a day to 30 cents?—We do if possible, for an out of crop task.

4134. Have you introduced machinery much since the commencement of freedom?—The plough has been used on some estates.

4135. Do not you think that much greater economy might be produced in the cultivation of sugar by the introduction of ploughs and horses, hoes, and other machinery?—Very great indeed on those estates that are old enough to be conducted with the plough; but on the new estates, where there are stumps of hardwood trees, the ploughs can scarcely run; and some are too undulating to use the plough.

4136. How can you account for more machinery not having been introduced?—Because the old estates, where it could be used, are many of them abandoned.

4137. Do you think that if an ample supply of machinery were introduced, and the wages reduced from 60 cents to 30 cents a task, you could carry on the sugar cultivation with advantage?—Every estate in the island could carry it on at the present prices of sugar, provided we had plenty of labour at 30 cents. per task.

4138. Would you be able to compete with foreign slave sugar, produced by slave labour?—It would depend upon the protection we had. I do not think, myself, that free labour can ever compete with slave labour. I have often thought on the subject, and I am firmly of opinion that free labour cannot compete with slave labour.

4139. You think it will always be necessary that some protection should be given to free labour sugar over slave labour sugar?—I do. I think Porto Rico and Cuba will always have the advantage as long as they have slaves, but not after that. Our soil and climate are as good as theirs.

4140. Have you taken into calculation the cost of slaves, and the casualties to which they are exposed?—Yes.

4141. And, notwithstanding those disadvantages on their part, and with the introduction of machinery, and a reduced rate of wages on your part, you think you would still not be able to compete?—I am certain that free labour in any case will not be able to compete with slave labour. There are places in the East Indies where labour is cheaper than in any part of the world, and if free labour was cheaper than slave labour, there would be no slaves in the East Indies; and, secondly, at Odessa, corn is produced by slaves cheaper than any other corn in Europe; and from those two circumstances I conceive that free labour can never be so cheap as slave labour.

4142. Supposing the proprietor resided upon the estates, greater economy would be introduced?—Yes, but never to make up for the difference between slave labour and free labour.

4143. Mr. *Hawes.*] You were one of the gentlemen who signed certain resolutions on the 22d of June 1841, to which the name of Mr. Burnley is added as the chairman?—I dare say I was.

4144. Will you have the goodness to attend to the second resolution, and to say how you reconcile it with the answer you have just given: "Resolved, That the plea of necessity for the introduction of sugar raised by the compulsory labour of slaves, into home consumption is unfounded; as the island of Trinidad alone, from its extent and fertility, is capable, with a sufficient labouring population, of producing more sugar than the inhabitants of Great Britain can consume, and at a cheaper rate, by free labour, than it can be raised in Cuba and Brazil, where slavery prevails; provided the restrictions which now impede the free current of immigration be removed, and an adequate protecting duty be continued to the British grower, until such time as he can procure and render available such labour"?—I thought at the time that that was the case, but I have considered more deeply on the subject since, and I have now come to the conclusion that free labour never can compete with slave labour under the system which at present prevails in the foreign colonies, where I have reason to know they work their slaves for 20 hours per diem.

4145. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Would the introduction of machinery be attended with any heavy expense?—No, a very trifling expense, wherever it could be used; the plough, the horse-hoe, and the harrow are three great things.

4146. In the present reduced state of property, do you think they are in a state and condition to introduce machinery, and to incur any additional expense whatever?—They could wherever it could be introduced to advantage; but the estates

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in Trinidad are too new to use machinery to any extent. The stumps of the hard-wood trees still remain in the ground, which would prevent the plough from working.

4147. What number of hours' labour in the day had the master a right to exact from the labourers during slavery?—There was an Order in Council which restricted them to nine hours towards the latter end of slavery. It never was attended to very strictly, and by giving the slaves a small compensation, the owners had so much influence that they readily got a great deal more work than the Order in Council allowed to be exacted from them.

4148. Has the consumption of rum increased in the island since emancipation?—It increased wonderfully whilst the allowance was given. It has decreased very much since. When the allowance of two glasses a day was given, it increased very much indeed.

4149. Do you think the negroes are naturally inclined to intoxication?—Not at all; not one-tenth of them.

4150. Mr. *Bankes.*] Are the labourers that come from the United States more or less sober?—They are very sober and very industrious; they change their employment very much; they go from one thing to another.

4151. Viscount *Chelsea.*] As agricultural labourers, would you prefer them to the immigrants from Sierra Leone?—No; I would rather have the immigrants from Sierra Leone than any other people I have ever seen; they work more closely, and they are more civil and better conducted.

4152. Have you known any instances of the immigrants from Sierra Leone performing as many as four tasks a day, which you stated some of the North American immigrants to have performed?—No; they generally do two tasks a day.

4153. You stated that in slavery the labourers performed labour for 18 hours for five months in the year; what amount of labour, calculating by tasks, should you estimate that they performed in a year?—I do not know; but I think they did 50 per cent. more work than they do at present.

4154. How many tasks would the 18 hours be?—On a cattle estate they grind at present 2,400 gallons, and in the time of slavery they used to grind 3,600.

4155. You cannot state how many tasks in a day that would be?—That would be a task and a half in a day.

4156. In 18 hours?—Yes.

4157. But much more than that is performed now, is not it, by every description of labourer?—No, by no means; there is only a task performed on four days in the week by the generality of labourers.

4158. Have you not stated that in many instances they perform more than that?—No; I mentioned the particular instance of the American labourers and the Sierra Leone people doing two tasks in a day, and that is in the out of crop season.

4159. Those are the only exceptions?—Yes.

4160. Mr. *Barclay.*] You do not mean that all the negroes upon the estate worked 18 hours a day, but only those employed during crop time in the works?—It was only those employed about the works.

4161. Were they changed frequently?—When there was a large gang, they were changed.

4162. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You say that the nine hours system of actual labour was not always adhered to during slavery; was not a protector of slaves appointed by an Order in Council?—We did it in this way; we had great influence over the negroes during slavery, and for a small sum we induced them to work 18 hours; and we put the additional nine hours against the small compensation that we gave them.

4163. Then you paid them for working the 18 hours?—We paid them a small sum for the additional nine hours; but 18 hours was the very highest, 16 hours was the average.

4164. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Are the labourers you have at present capable without fatigue of performing two tasks a day?—In the out of crop season very easily.

4165 Not in the crop season?—I think a task and a third would be enough. That will be 12 hours hours instead of nine.

4166. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the size of the hogshead in Trinidad?—Thirty-eight inches truss; it is 13 cwt.

4167. Has there been any change in the weight of the hogshead lately?—None that I know of.

4168. *Chairman.*]

4168. *Chairman.*] How many immigrants have you received in Trinidad from the United States?—I think somewhere about 600 altogether.

4169. When did they come?—They began about two years ago, and the last came, I think, a year ago.

4170. Have you had any within the last year?—I do not think there have been any.

4171. How were those 600 hundred obtained?—They were obtained by agents of the colony in the United States; we had coloured people, Americans, as agents there.

4172. Are those agents still resident in the United States?—They are.

4173. Are you still looking for further immigration from that quarter?—I do not think it will ever be a large source of immigration, but the laws of the United States are beginning to press very heavily upon the coloured class now, and we may get some.

4174. From what part of the United States do they come?—From Maryland mostly, one cargo from Baltimore.

4175. You say that last year none came; do you know why the supply stopped?—Three Quaker gentlemen came out, and I think they were waiting for their return; I understood that there was a cargo ready to come when they left.

4176. You stated that after you reduced the rate of wages to the extent of one-fourth, by withdrawing the allowances, you got better labour; to what do you attribute that improvement?—I think they wished to keep up their income, and they worked more than they did before.

4177. Then to the extent to which you have tried it, the reduction of wages has fully succeeded?—It has.

4178. By whom are the aged and infirm taken care of now?—Themselves; there is no poor law.

4179. You have nothing in the shape of poor law?—No.

4180. Have you anything in practice like a poor law; have you any payments from the estate, by which the destitute are supported?—If a man gets unwell on the estate, or becomes old, we do not deprive him of his cottage; we allow him still to have his cottage and grounds.

4181. But he looks to his relatives for support?—Yes; there are no public means of support.

4182. In the case of a disabled man allowed to remain upon your property, do you cultivate the ground for him, or does he get it cultivated?—He gets it cultivated.

4183. Viscount *Howick.*] Is not assistance given to him by his relations frequently, in the form of cultivating his provision grounds?—Very frequently, I think.

4184. *Chairman.*] Up to this time you have not known destitute persons become a burthen upon the land?—No.

4185. Viscount *Howick.*] Had your agents much difficulty in finding persons in North America willing to emigrate?—Sometimes they had; but when there is a new law passed in America, pressing upon the coloured people, they are willing to come.

4186. Has it ever been considered whether you might not advance, on the credit of the colony, money to slaves in the United States, to enable them to buy their own freedom, for the purpose of emigration?—I never considered that.

4187. Might not something of that kind be done, the slaves entering into an agreement to repay the amount of the sum advanced to them out of the high wages they would obtain in Trinidad?—It would be very difficult to get agents to go among the people in the United States. I think they would Lynch them.

4188. If it was done with the concurrence of the masters, would not the masters frequently be glad to dispose of their slaves?—In the old settlements they might. If we were able to pay 1,000 dollars a head, as the south does to the northern states, we might do it soon. There are 500 labourers in the United States that were set free by the will of Mr. Randolph, and the Quaker gentlemen said they would get those 500 to come to Trinidad.

4189. Mr. *Hawes.*] You stated that when the slave gave 18 hours' labour, some extra compensation was paid to him; what was it?—I think it was about 5 *d.* a day.

4190. Was it actually paid in money?—It was.

4191. The mill was kept constantly going, was not it, and the labourers changed?—There were many intervals when they had not canes, and they could sit down for half an hour together.

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4192. Was not it the habit to keep the machinery going from Monday morning till Saturday night?—The machinery was kept at work every day in the week, but never more than 18 hours in any one day; and there was often an interruption from the want of canes.

4193. *Chairman.*] Have you ever tried to obtain more labour for the wages you pay, by making your labourers work by the day instead of by the task?—I have tried that, and I find that they will not do so much work by the day as by the task. When they work by the day we call it gang-work; they work from eight in the morning till four in the evening; but in that time they never perform so much labour as they do by the task in four hours; they work more vigorously by the task.

4194. The law affords you no means of compelling a fair amount of labour by the day?—No.

4195. In fact, the experiment has not answered?—No.

4196. You think it would be impossible for you in that way to obtain a larger quantity of labour without reducing the wages of the labourer?—I think it would.

4197. Mr. *Hawes.*] Has not the amount of effective labour increased latterly, as compared with any period immediately following the abolition of slavery?—During the crop of 1842 we found it increased very much, and we have been a great deal better off regarding labour since that.

4198. Mr. *Barclay.*] To what cause do you attribute the greater effectiveness of labour of which you now speak?—I think the labourers wished to keep up their income; they had brought themselves to a certain way of living, and they wished to keep it up, and they work more now than they did some time ago; they work five tasks in a week.

4199. Mr. *Hawes.*] Supposing the labour to have been 18 hours during slavery and nine now, can you give the Committee any idea of the comparative effectiveness of the nine hours' labour, as compared with the 18 hours in slavery?—The 18 hours' labour was done entirely about the works, and in that time they ground 3,600 gallons, and now 2,400 is the task.

4200. Then the difference in the productiveness is to be considered as the difference between 24 and 36?—Yes, a difference of one-third.

4201. But then there was a great mortality, was there not?—There was.

4202. And then you had also all the incidental expenses of slavery to which allusion has been made?—Yes.

BRITISH GUIANA.

John Scoble, Esq.

John Scoble, Esq. called in; and Examined.

4203. Mr. *Hawes.*] HAVE you visited any of the British West India colonies?—I have visited Barbadoes, Trinidad, and Demerara; once in the year 1836, and a second time, in the year 1838.

4204. What was your object in visiting those colonies?—My object in visiting those colonies in the year 1836 was for the purpose of ascertaining the exact condition of the negro apprentice: my object in visiting the colonies in 1838 was for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the negro under the new state of freedom into which he had been introduced.

4205. Had you an opportunity of judging of the relative position of masters and servants in British Guiana?—I had a full opportunity of judging of the relative position of masters and servants in British Guiana, both during the period of apprenticeship and also during that of freedom.

4206. Will you state to the Committee, as accurately as you can, what that position was, and how far the labouring population were contented and satisfied with the position in which they were placed by the laws, as they then existed?—The question refers, I presume, to the period of freedom which commenced on the 1st of August; there had been a great deal of consideration on the part of the Court of Policy in view of the change in condition of the negroes, from that of apprenticeship to that of freedom; several local ordinances were passed; those ordinances underwent the review of the Home Government, and were found generally to contain so much objectionable matter that they were disallowed, or rather were superseded by Orders in Council, particularly an Order in Council of the 7th of September 1838, regulating contracts, and an Order in Council of the same date, on the subject of vagrancy; those Orders in Council may now be considered as the law of the colony of British Guiana, as they have undergone

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but little or no modification, except to give increased facilities to the planters in the colony to obtain labourers from this country; the Order in Council, therefore, of the 7th of September 1838, regulating contracts, must be considered as the law of the colony at the present time, regulating the relation between master and servant.

4207. By whom is the law administered affecting the relation between master and servant now?—The special justices of the colony administer the law between master and servant.

4208. Entirely?—Entirely.

4209. How is the Inferior Criminal Court constituted?—The Inferior Criminal Court is constituted in Demerara by the high sheriff and three local justices, and all questions arising with respect to petty theft on property, or assaults of the negroes upon each other, are referred by the special justices, or by the local justices, to the Inferior Criminal Court, before which the parties offending are tried.

4210. Then the jurisdiction of the special justices is confined to regulating contracts between master and servant, and the Inferior Criminal Court takes cognizance of all offences of a petty character?—Yes.

4211. That court is presided over by the high sheriff?—Yes.

4212. Are the laws adequate to the protection both of the master and of the servant?—They are perfectly adequate to the protection both of the master and of the servant.

4213. Are there police and vagrant laws in the colony which are sufficient for the suppression of crime and the punishment of vagrancy?—The present laws are considered amply adequate by all parties in British Guiana for the purposes to which they are to be applied; the police law has undergone several modifications since the year 1838, but I believe it is now considered to be in a perfect state, both by the Home Government and by the colonial authorities.

4214. Is there any law in Guiana to prevent squatting on the Crown lands?—An Order in Council effectually prevents squatting on Crown lands; indeed, no individuals can occupy Crown lands unless they become purchasers of them to the extent of 100 acres, the upset price of which is 1 *l.* sterling per acre.

4215. Are the labourers generally satisfied with the administration of the law by the special justices and by the other authorities?—When I was in the colony the labourers felt considerable difficulty in making applications to the special justices generally in the colony, not having entire confidence in their decisions, believing that there was a bias towards the masters rather than towards them in the administration of justice. They drew their conclusions from the circumstance of the special justices generally having been obliged to depend upon the planters for house room, and even for the supply of their tables to a very considerable extent, and from their being necessarily thrown into their company as companions and friends.

4216. What was the nature of the immigration ordinance?—The Committee are probably aware that considerable efforts have been made in the colony for the purpose of obtaining immigrants from Europe, from the United States of America, and from the old colonies. Resolutions have been passed both by the planters at different times, constituting themselves into a voluntary immigration society, and by the Court of Policy, to enable them to bring immigrants into the colony. But those resolutions, and the earlier ordinances which were passed on the subject of immigration, have been superseded by an ordinance which, I think, was passed on the 26th of June 1839. Under that ordinance the planters are now able to obtain labourers from any part of the world, with the exception of British India and the western coast of Africa, and under that as well as former ordinances a very considerable number of labourers have been introduced into the colony.

4217. What is your opinion, speaking from the result of your visit to British Guiana, as to the necessity of a further importation of labour?—I am of opinion that, for the ordinary cultivation of the estates, there will be found in British Guiana at the present time a sufficient amount of labour, but I do not think the inducements which have been given by the planters have been sufficient to secure what is usually termed in that and other colonies continuous labour.

4218. Have complaints been made to you, personally, by the labourers as to the insufficiency of the wages, or have objections been stated as to the mode in which they have been paid their wages?—Objections have been stated by the negroes on both points; they not only consider the wages to be inadequate, under certain

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circumstances, but they have considered the mode in which they have been paid as unjust and unfair towards themselves.

4219. In what did the injustice consist?—In the first place, deductions have frequently been made from the wages which they have earned upon the estates by mulcts or fines, levied by the proprietors of the estates. For instance, the labourer on some estates could not get paid for any amount of work that he performed if that amount was not, in the judgment of the proprietor, sufficient. In British Guiana there is a tariff or scale of labour; if the labourer did not perform one half the amount of the labour required by that tariff, in that case he was not paid anything. Again, a labourer who might have been absent from the estate for a day, would have two bitts, or half a guilder, which is equal to 8½ *d.*, deducted for absence from the estate. On some estates it would be four bitts, or a guilder; so that a labourer performing three days' work upon the estate, and the other three days devoting himself to the cultivation of his grounds, to marketing, or to any other purpose, would obtain no remuneration whatever for his labour. Again, the labourers were frequently paid by goods, as they are termed in the colony—pieces of paper made payable either on the estate or at some store in the town: I have specimens of those papers if the Committee wish to see them. At other times the labourers obtained paper acknowledgments of the amount of labour which they had performed during the month; those paper acknowledgments were usually brought at the end of the month to the proprietor, who kept a store upon the estate, and would pay, in that case, the balance that might be due to the negro either in goods or in money, as the case might be: in other words, the truck system prevailed upon many estates when I was in the colony, to the serious injury of the labourers.

4220. You have stated that the labour was regulated by a kind of tariff; who drew up the tariff?—The tariff was drawn up by a committee of planters, appointed by the late Sir James Carmichael Smith; it was drawn up previously to the introduction of the apprenticeship. I have a copy of the tariff here, which, with the permission of the Committee, I will put in. (*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*)

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	WORK NOW PERFORMED IN 9 HOURS.	WORK TO BE PERFORMED IN 7½ HOURS.
CANE CULTIVATION.		
Digging new navigable canals, 12 feet wide and five feet deep, and throwing the ground on both sides	600 cubic feet	500 cubic feet.
Throwing back a six feet parapet from the above, and levelling the ground	72 feet in length	60 feet in length.
Digging new punt trenches as above, where the ground is all thrown on one side	480 cubic feet	400 cubic feet.
Throwing back six feet parapets from above	48 feet in length	40 feet in length.
Digging new small drains, 2×2 land cleared	18 roeds	15 roeds.
Throwing out small drains, one shovel deep	50 roeds	42 roeds.
Holing or banking land, 2½×2½	36 roeds	30 roeds.
Shovel-ploughing new holed land, a shovel deep, and rounding beds	72 roeds	60 roeds.
Hoe-ploughing, and planting one row of the above with two rows of plants, the plants being on the parapets	60 roeds	50 roeds.
Weeding, moulding, and supplying plant canes, first time, in holed land	90 roeds of 1 row	75 roeds.
Weeding and moulding plant canes, second time	100 roeds	86 roeds.
Weeding and moulding ratoons	120 roeds	100 roeds.
Weeding and trashing canes	120 roeds	100 roeds.
Cutting and carrying canes, where the carriage does not exceed 18 roeds	2 labourers to load a punt 28×7½, and 3 feet deep, 600 cubic feet	500 cubic feet.
Ditto, ditto, for one hogshead of sugar per diem	11 labourers	13 labourers.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	WORK NOW PERFORMED IN 9 HOURS.	WORK TO BE PERFORMED IN 7½ HOURS.
Relieving and tying trash ratoons	120 roeds	100 roeds.
Supplying only, first time	120 roeds	100 roeds.
Relieving and supplying at same time	60 roeds	50 roeds.
Shovel-ploughing a space between (two feet wide) cane rows	60 roeds	50 roeds.
Drilling, two feet wide, one shovel deep	36 roeds	30 roeds.
PLANTAIN CULTIVATION.		
Weeding and trimming plantain walks	5 labourers to 1 acre	6 labourers to 1 acre.
Digging plantain suckers	200 each labourer	160 each labourer.
Ditto holes for ditto, 15 inches square	120 ditto	100 ditto.
Planting ditto, suckers at hand	150 ditto	125 ditto.
Cutting firewood, and cording ditto, carriage not over 20 roeds	128 cubic feet, or 8 feet × 4	107 cubic feet, or 6 feet 8 inches × 4.
COFFEE CULTIVATION.		
Digging holes, 18 inches square, for coffee plants	120 each labourer	100 each labourer.
Planting coffee in the above, the plants being on the spot	100 ditto	85 ditto.
Weeding coffee, and pulling off water sprouts and vines from the trees	5 labourers to 1 acre	6 labourers to 1 acre.
It is impossible to fix any scale of task-work for picking coffee, as the quantity to be picked by each individual must entirely depend upon the quantity of ripe fruit on the trees.		
Trimming coffee trees after crop, and cutlassing vines on the trees	4 labourers to 1 acre	5 labourers to 1 acre.
Assorting first quality coffee, after being stamped, winnowed, and sifted	150 lbs.	120 lbs.
Inferior and drift coffee	75 lbs.	60 lbs.
Cutting bunches of plantains, and carrying them in punts to the buildings, provided the head-carriage does not exceed 100 roeds	80 bunches to each labourer	65 bunches to each labourer.
Trenching (the same as in sugar cultivation).		
COTTON CULTIVATION.		
Planting cotton, supposing the land to be prepared	6 labourers 3 acres	7 labourers 3 acres.
Pruning cotton	6 ditto 3 ditto	7 ditto 3 ditto.
Weeding, after pruning	6 ditto 1 ditto	7 ditto 1 ditto.
Ditto, after crop, or other weeding	5 ditto 1 ditto	6 ditto.
No general system of task-work can be applied to picking cotton, as it must depend on the character of the crop.		
Ginning, by manual labour	50 lbs. each labourer	40 lbs. each labourer.
Cleaning cotton after ginning	60 lbs. each labourer	50 lbs. each labourer.
Baling with machine	7 bales to 4 labourers	6 bales to 4 labourers.
WOOD CUTTING—SQUARING TIMBER.		
Felling trees, and squaring them for saw logs	25 cubic feet	23 cubic feet.
Ditto, ditto, for framing timber	18 ditto	15 ditto
Making wallaba shingles, and carrying them to a water carriage	200 each labourer	175 each labourer.
Making staves, and heading and carrying them as above	100 ditto	87 ditto.
Cutting and cording hardwood, for fuel	6 labourers to 4 cords	6 labourers to 3 cords.

N. B.—The roed mentioned in the foregoing tariff, and made use of in Guiana, is the Rhynland roed, equal to 12 feet and 4 inches nearly.

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4221. Comparing the amount of labour demanded there for a day's work with the amount in the period of slavery, is there any great difference between the two?—My inquiries, when in the colony, both of planters and of labourers, led me to the conclusion, that the amount of labour required from the negro, as an apprentice, was equal to the demand from him as a slave; and there is some proof that this was the case, in statements which are on record in the Parliamentary Papers. The Paper I have before me forms part of the evidence which the West India body laid before Government in the year 1831. It is the evidence of Mr. Hyndman, who was a very large proprietor in that colony, and therefore well able to give evidence as to the exact state of things at the time. He says, at page 40, that the amount of labour required of the negro in holing land was 15 roeds or 450 feet per day. On referring to the tariff and scale of labour which I have before me, the quantity required of the negro, under the system of apprenticeship, was 30 roeds. In cutting and carrying the canes for one hogshead of sugar, where the distance of carriage is 25 roeds each way, the number of labourers allowed to cut and carry the canes for a hogshead of sugar was 15. In the tariff appointed for the apprentices, I find that 13 labourers only were required to do the same work. In weeding young canes, during the period of slavery, the task required of the slave was 30 beds of three roods each, that is 90 roeds. Under the apprenticeship system, I find that he was required to perform 100 roeds. Comparing, therefore, the statement of Mr. Hyndman with the tariff, I am led to the conclusion, as well as from the information I obtained in Guiana, that in point of fact, the labourer was required to perform as much work as an apprentice as he had previously been required to perform as a slave. The same scale of tasks is in operation now, with here and there a little modification, some of the planters not exacting the full 100 roeds; they are regulated more by the consideration of the particular work than by the general practice of the colony.

4222. Assuming that there has been a struggle to obtain from the free labourer the amount of labour exacted from the slave, do you think, from what you have seen in the colony, that it is just to infer that has given rise to a great deal of resistance and unwillingness to labour on the part of the labouring population?—Decidedly so.

4223. And that that would explain to a great extent the falling off in the production of sugar?—I think it would.

4224. How is the work of the labourers regulated now?—It is regulated by the same tariff or scale of labour which was in operation during the apprenticeship.

4225. Can you at all give the Committee any idea of the proportion which the amount of labour actually performed now by the free labourer, bears to that which was performed by the slave?—There is decidedly more labour performed by the free man than by the slave, on the estates generally. The number, however, of labourers on the estates, since the introduction of complete freedom, has considerably decreased.

4226. Do the women work now?—On some estates the same classes of women work as did during the periods of apprenticeship and slavery, but a very large number of the women upon the estates do not do either the same kind of work or the same amount of work as they did during the former state of slavery, or during the period of apprenticeship.

4227. How are they now employed?—Those who are mothers and have families, or who have young infants to take care of, are mostly found at home, taking care of their children.

4228. Do they cultivate the provision grounds?—They assist in the cultivation of the provision grounds, and occasionally in the lighter cultivation of the estates.

4229. Are the children employed?—The children that were six years old when the Abolition Act came into force in the colonies are usually employed in agricultural labour. The children that were under six years of age at that period, up to the present time, generally speaking, have not been so employed, but have either been allowed to remain at home with their parents, or else they are to be found in schools which have been established in the colony for their education. None of the latter class as yet, however, have attained the age of 14 years.

4230. What is the amount of wages now paid for a day's labour or task?—The amount of wages paid for a task or a day's labour when I was in the colony in 1838 and 1839 was 1 *s.* 4 ½ *d.*—the third part of a dollar. I believe, subsequently to my leaving the colony, during the high price of sugar in the British market,

market, for a second task the negro got five bitts; that would be about 1 *s.* 9 *d.* for the second task, not for the first. If he performed the first task he got a guilder for it; for the second task, as an inducement, an extra bitt was offered and paid.

4231. Was there any difficulty in procuring a second task at additional remuneration?—I should presume there must have been considerable difficulty in obtaining a second task; first, because it would require a man to put forth all the strength he possessed. My own opinion is, that there are very few labourers indeed in British Guiana who can perform continuously two tasks of the usual field labour per diem.

4232. Do you consider a task to be four hours' continuous labour, or more or less?—My opinion is, that the time taken in the performance of a task will be affected by the state of the cultivation upon the estate, by the heaviness of the land, and the nature of the work to be performed. Ordinarily, I believe a task may be performed in from five to seven hours. Upon the average, probably a task may be performed in six hours, but not in less time than that.

4233. Then you are understood to say that a task which may require from five to seven hours is paid at the rate of about 1 *s.* 4 *d.*?—1 *s.* 4 ½ *d.*

4234. That was the amount of wages paid for such a task when you were in British Guiana?—That was the amount paid when I was in the colony, subject to the deductions I have adverted to on many estates.

4235. Deductions for occasional non-attendance and absence from work?—Yes.

4236. Have you any reason to believe that the wages have increased since that period?—I have mentioned that the wages increased subsequently to my having left the colony, during the period that very high prices were obtained for sugar in the British market; but that the additional amount was upon the second task, if they performed it; not upon the first.

4237. And that was during the high price of sugar?—Yes.

4238. Have you heard, or do you know from your own knowledge, that at the same time that that additional rate of wages, and those additional allowances were given, the planters were more careless as to the quality of the work required from the labourers, and that that has led to many disputes amongst the employers and the labourers latterly, when they have endeavoured again to enforce work of better quality?—I have every reason to believe, from very extensive correspondence with British Guiana, and also from intercourse with gentlemen who have recently come from the colony, that the effect of those high prices of sugar in the British market was, not only to raise the price of labour in the way I have pointed out, but also very materially to affect the quality of the work performed by the labourers. That in fact the work performed has been latterly very much worse in point of quality than when I was in the colony.

4239. Do you think the present rate of wages adequate?—With the provision grounds, I should say that they are adequate; but without the provision grounds they would be inadequate to sustain the negro in that colony.

4240. That is, the money wages paid by the planter are not adequate to their sustenance?—No; looking at the price of provisions in the colony, and the price of imported goods of various kinds.

4241. Can you give the Committee any information as to the comparative price of labour during the periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom?—During the period of slavery I find, by a statement of Mr. Hyndman, on the same page to what I have previously referred, that the price of female slave labour was estimated at 10 dollars per month, and supposing 26 working days in a month, that would be about 1 *s.* 9 *d.* per diem. In addition to this, of course the planter would have to supply the female slave with food and shelter, clothing, and medical attendance, and also to pay the cost of rearing a slave. Mr. Hyndman stated that, the rearing of a slave to the age of 14 years in British Guiana cost the master the sum of 160 *l.* sterling. There is also a statement of Mr. John Innes, who gave evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1832, that the cost of rearing a slave to the age of 14 was 226 *l.* 14 *s.* 10 *d.* sterling. I also find that Mr. Peter Rose, who is a member of the Court of Policy in British Guiana, and extensively acquainted with every question connected with it, gives it as his opinion, in an explanatory letter to the Governor, that the price of labour during the period of apprenticeship was, for non-predials, equal to 4 *s.* per diem, and for predials attached 2 *s.* 9 *d.* This he proves by showing at what prices the negroes were valued during the period of apprenticeship, as well as from public sales as from the self purchase

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of apprentices, which took place in the year 1837, and that was exclusive, of course, of the clothing, feeding, sheltering, and medical attendance afforded to the apprentices during that period.

4242. Then if there has been a diminution in the produce of sugar, there has also been a considerable reduction in the expense of raising it?—I should say decidedly, so far as negro labour is concerned.

4243. Were the negroes, when you were in the colony, regularly paid their wages weekly?—One of the chief complaints of the negroes, when I was in the colony, was, that they were not paid regularly and punctually the amount of wages due to them, and that was one great cause of their dissatisfaction with the existing state of things.

4244. In what way were they paid, and when were they paid?—Sometimes they were paid once a month, sometimes once in six weeks, sometimes once in three months, according to the ability of the planter; at that time they were paid occasionally also in paper, payable only at certain stores.

4245. Has there been any withdrawal of labourers from agricultural employment in British Guiana?—There has been a withdrawal of labourers from agricultural employment; for instance, I found when I was in the colony, that a very large number of those who had been employed as tradesmen, such as coopers and carpenters upon the premises, who were occasionally compelled during the period of crop, to give field labour to the estate, had now entirely withdrawn from field labour; I found also that a considerable number of young persons had left the estates and had gone into the towns and hired themselves as domestic servants to families residing in the towns; I found that others had abandoned the estates and taken up the practice of selling goods about the country to other negroes who might wish to purchase them: I should think that from those various causes, a very considerable amount of labour was withdrawn from the estates when freedom was completely established in the colony.

4246. Can you give the Committee any information as to the tenure by which they hold possession of their huts and provision grounds?—In British Guiana, the occupation of a hut and provision ground, when I was in the colony, was made to depend upon the amount of labour given to the estate.

4247. They were subject to ejectment when the stipulated labour was not performed?—Always; and ejectments frequently took place in consequence.

4248. Were those ejectments brought under the notice of the special magistrates?—Sometimes they were, at other times they were not; the planter took upon himself to eject the labourer without application to the authorities of the colony so to do.

4249. Did the labourer, in that case, complain to the special justice?—I found that the practice was considered to be legal when I arrived in the colony for the planter to eject the labourer, without any reference to the authorities. I submitted the case to the consideration of the Governor, which led to a modification of the practice, and since that a reference has been made, previously to ejectment, to a special justice.

4250. Did you recommend any plan to the Governor at that time to remove the discontent consequent upon such ejectments, or arising from any cause, as between labourer and master?—I found on my arrival in the colony that there was a great want of confidence on the part of the negro towards his employer; and I felt persuaded, that until confidence could be restored between them, it was impossible to expect that the cultivation of the estates could go on profitably or pleasantly to either party. I found, on inquiry of the negroes, that the tenure by which the negroes held their huts and provision grounds was not that by which they desired to hold them; they wished to rent their huts and provision grounds, and I suggested to the planters the propriety of at once coming to terms with the negroes, by allowing them to become renters, rather than to make the tenure by which they held their huts and provision grounds dependent upon the amount of labour to be exacted from them. This plan, I believe, if it had been carried into effect, would have removed many of the objections of the negroes; and I have reason to believe, also, that confidence would have been established to a very considerable extent, and cultivation have gone on much better than it has done.

4251. How was that proposition received?—By some it was received well; they thought it would be an excellent thing if it were generally adopted; but as there

there did not appear to be a desire on the part of the planters generally to adopt the suggestion; it fell to the ground.

4252. Are you of opinion that the general condition of the labourers has improved since emancipation?—Very much indeed.

4253. Do you give credit to the statement that they have saved large sums of money occasionally?—No doubt of it.

4254. And that they have bought lands?—A very large number have bought lots of land in the colony.

4255. And they contribute to missions and schools, do they not?—Very liberally.

4256. What religious bodies have established missions in that colony?—The London Missionary Society has a considerable number of agents in the colony, and the Wesleyan Missionary Society also has agents there. I should suppose that at least one-half of the labouring population of the colony of British Guiana is in one way or other under instruction by the agents of the London and Wesleyan Missionary Societies.

4257. How are they supported chiefly?—They are supported chiefly by the contributions of the negroes, and occasionally by assistance from the planters also, in the way of voluntary contributions to the funds of those societies.

4258. Is it your opinion that in conjunction with the improved condition of the labouring class, the colony generally, as a trading community, has improved?—There can be no doubt of that; the remarkable difference in the appearance of the colony between 1836 and 1838, was a proof to me that the internal commerce of the colony had very materially improved.

4259. You are aware that during the first three years of freedom there has been a falling off in the amount of produce exported from Guiana, as compared with the last three years of slavery, and the last three years of the apprenticeship; can you state whether any particular causes have been in operation to account for this?—In addition to the causes I have already adverted to, such as the withdrawal of labour, I might mention the excessive droughts which prevailed in the years 1839 and 1840. It is well known to those in the colony, that droughts, similar to those I have referred to, have scarcely ever been known to have existed in that colony. In 1839 particularly I may mention, from having been in the colony myself, that from the early part of the year to the early part of June there had been no rain, the effect of which was to prevent the canes, which were ripe, and ready to be cut and brought to the mill, from being reaped. There were no means of bringing them to the mill; and consequently a very large destruction of sugar took place, from the mere effect of the drought.

4260. *Chairman.*] Why could they not be brought to the mill?—The carriage of the canes from the cane-pieces to the mills is by trenches, and they were dry, consequently the canes could not be brought to the mill; to cut them would be merely to let them lie on the ground. I found upon inquiry, and from the statements of many gentlemen upon estates, that the loss to them was very considerable indeed. On some estates it amounted to one-half of the produce they expected to reap; and on others, to at least one-third of the produce. That was in 1839. The effect of the drought also upon the growing plants was very great. The drought was followed in the early part of 1840 by heavy rains, and then by a severe drought again, and those causes materially affected the amount of produce in 1839 and 1840, and part of 1841.

4261. Mr. *Hawes.*] Have you received any information as to the exports of the present year?—I have understood that the exports of the present year were likely to have been greater than during the last two years, but the unfortunate difference which has arisen between the planters and the labourers, leads me to fear that there will be a diminished crop this year.

4262. Have you seen, in one of the Parliamentary Papers, a statement of the losses said to be sustained by 62 estates in British Guiana during the year 1841?—I have read the statement.

4263. Have you any remarks to make upon it?—I observe that the table is constructed in such a form as to lead to very material errors: for instance, in the tabular statement which I have before me, it is said that the total expenses connected with the cultivation of those estates, during the year 1841, amounted to 1,295,678 dollars; that the total revenue of those estates amounted to 312,171, dollars; and that the difference between the expense and the revenue was 983,507 dollars. Now that statement, to individuals who are not aware of the facts of the

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case, is very likely to mislead, and it has misled several persons who have consulted this tabular statement; because the crop of this year is not stated as forming part of the total revenue of those estates. The crop is put in a form in this tabular statement which no one would understand. For instance, it is said here "Total sugar crop, 9,953 dollars," whereas it should have been 9,953 hogsheads; and the value of those hogsheads should have been placed in the column of total revenue, and then it would have been seen that the loss upon those estates was by no means so great as it would appear. I believe also, that by correcting the statement which accompanies the table, it will be found that 10,343 hogsheads should be inserted in that column instead of 9,953 dollars.

4264. Can you state the average weight of the hogshead?—The hogsheads vary in weight; I suppose that in Demerara the average weight of a hogshead might be about 16 cwt.

4265. Is the price of sugar stated there?—The price of sugar is not stated there, nor are there any means by which the real value of the sugar can be ascertained. I would also state that we have no details in connexion with the losses said to have been sustained by those estates during the year 1841; we neither know the names of the estates nor the circumstances connected with the estates, nor such other information as is absolutely necessary in order to form a just estimate of the real facts of the case.

4266. With regard to any extended immigration, are or are not the labourers now tolerably well informed both as to their rights and prospects, and as to the consequences of such importation of labour upon wages, and would not any combination amongst the planters and any Government assistance, tend to engender great discontent and apprehension in the minds of the labouring class?—My opinion is, that the emigration into British Guiana should be decidedly under the control of the Government. No indentures or contracts for labour made out of the colony are valid. The labourers must therefore be supposed, on their arrival in the colony, to be perfectly acquainted with the exact state of the labour market, and to avail themselves of the best opportunities of disposing of their labour when they arrive in the colony.

4267. Do you think that the Government should be actively engaged in importing labourers, or do you mean that the Government should control the contracts when made between labourers imported and their employers?—I think Government should have a controlling power over emigration into the British colonies.

4268. Do you mean generally, not only as regards the number imported, but with reference to the fulfilment of the contracts made by persons importing labourers?—In reference to the former part of the question, I should say, decidedly; in reference to the latter part of the question, I should say that the existing laws, administered by stipendiary magistrates in the colonies, are perfectly adequate to meet the exigencies of the case.

4269. Supposing the Government to be actively instrumental in importing labourers, do not you think that any large importation of labourers would engender a good deal of apprehension in the minds of the labouring class as to its effect upon their wages, and might produce discontent?—My opinion is, that the labourers would look with very considerable jealousy to a large importation of labourers into the colony of British Guiana, inasmuch as they would either suppose that it was the intention of the Government, or of the planters, to supersede their labour upon the estates, or to reduce the price of labour to so low a rate as to starve them.

4270. Do you or do you not think that the best system would be to leave the importation of labour to private enterprise, provided always that the interest of the labourers imported and the contracts they enter into were strictly under the control and inspection of the governor or of Government officers?—That is my idea, certainly.

4271. Would it not by that means be more gradually done, and would it not be accomplished without having any bad effect upon the minds of the labouring classes?—That is my impression, undoubtedly.

4272. What has generally been the conduct of the managers of estates towards the labourers, so far as you are acquainted with it from your own personal visit to the colony?—I should say that the conduct generally, on the part of managers of estates towards the negroes, has not been conciliatory; on the contrary, they have brought with them into the state of freedom the habits and associations of slavery,

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and a degree of harshness has characterised their general conduct towards the negroes, both as to the manner in which they have conducted themselves towards them in the time of work, and also as to the manner in which they have acted towards them out of the time of labour; they have treated them with great hauteur and distance, and exhibited much of pride and sometimes of violence towards them.

4273. That has led them to a disturbance of all friendly relation between master and servant?—I think it has.

4274. What has been the result?—The result has been a great dissatisfaction on the part of the negroes. The consequence has been that they have turned out very reluctantly to their work; that they have availed themselves of opportunities of changing their masters; and above all, they have thought it necessary to become the purchasers of lots of land, and to render themselves by that means independent of that kind of conduct against which they have objected.

4275. With regard to the comparative advantages of slave labour and free labour, are you prepared to offer any opinion to the Committee?—I am decidedly of opinion that free labour is not only the cheapest kind of labour, but I believe it will be found, under proper direction, to be the best kind of labour. I think that has been proved, decidedly, on the estates where proper attention has been shown to the comfort and happiness of the negro.

Lunæ, 13° *die Junii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. C. Howard.
Viscount Chelsea.	Viscount Howick.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

John Scoble, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

4276. Mr. *Hawes.*] HAVE you any further remarks to make with reference to the laws passed in British Guiana, in view of the abolition of the apprenticeship system?—I have drawn out a memorandum of the laws which passed in view of the abolition of the apprenticeship system, which I will take the liberty of submitting to the Committee. The Ordinance for the abolition of the apprenticeship passed the 12th of July 1838, after considerable opposition on the part of the non-official members of the Court of Policy. Sir Michael M'Turk, however, having given his vote in connexion with the official part of the Court of Policy, carried the question of complete emancipation in the colony. On the 30th of May 1838 the Police Ordinance was passed. Under this Ordinance the sheriffs and justices were constituted general conservators of the peace, with most extensive powers, as may be seen by consulting the seventh clause of that Ordinance. The police, under the eighth clause of that Ordinance, are called upon to yield entire obedience to the magistracy of the colony. The Vagrancy Ordinance was passed on the 12th of June 1838. Under this Ordinance, persons wandering abroad, persons able to maintain themselves, wholly or in part, wilfully refusing or neglecting to work, were punishable on the view of a single justice with 30 days' confinement and hard labour on the treadmill, or in the penal gang on the public streets or highways, at his discretion; that is in clause one. The same class of offenders, for a second offence, were punishable by a single justice with 60 days' hard labour in the penal gang, or the treadmill in gaol; that is in clause two. For the third offence, the offender might be committed by a single justice to the inferior criminal court; and, on conviction, sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment and hard labour in the penal gang, or on the treadmill, with such an amount of whipping, either publicly or privately, and as often as such court might in its discretion think expedient. The same Ordinance gives power, in clause nine, to the justices of the peace to issue warrants to enter houses in search of idle persons; and in clause eight, it punishes persons who disturb or hinder constables

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stables in the performance of their duties, with a fine of 20 *l.*, or 90 days' imprisonment. By clause 10, no proceedings are to be quashed for want of form. By clause 14, the powers vested in the special magistrates under the Abolition Act are annulled: so that the special magistracy ceased from the time when this Ordinance came into force in the colony of British Guiana. I should mention, with reference to this Ordinance, that it was repealed by an Order in Council on the 7th of September 1838, proclamation of which was made on the 3d of November 1838. There was another Police Ordinance passed on the 13th of June 1838. This Ordinance prescribed the duties of the mounted police, who were placed under the authority of the local justices. Alterations were suggested by the Home Government in this Ordinance. The first Contract Ordinance was passed on the 15th of June 1838. Under that, all persons receiving a week's wages, or entering upon the occupation of a house or tenement, were regarded as coming under the obligations of a general hiring, which was only voidable by one month's notice. Servants might be punished for any misdemeanor, miscarriage, or ill-behaviour, on conviction before a single justice, with imprisonment and hard labour for one month, or subject to a fine of 5 *l.* Masters might, in certain cases, abate portions of the wages without reference to the justices of the peace; offences committed by masters were punishable only by voidance of contracts, and a maximum fine of 5 *l.* This contract law was considered by the Home Government to have so much objectionable matter in it, that it was repealed by an Order in Council, dated 7th September 1838, which was proclaimed in the colony on the 2d of November 1838. There was a Poor Law Ordinance passed on the 16th of July 1838. Under this Ordinance, the planters were wholly relieved from the support of the aged, infirm, and diseased people on their estates who had any relatives in the first degree able to maintain them, and provision was made that where the planters were unable to support such as had no relatives to care for them, they were to be thrown on the church and poor's fund. It was further enacted under this Ordinance, that all dwellings and land occupied by the apprenticed labourers belonging to the master, and could not continue to be occupied, except by virtue of a contract to labour, or be willing to perform such reasonable and customary work as shall be assigned to them for stipulated wages. Refusal to do this, non-performance of work, insubordination, quarrelsomeness, &c. to be followed by expulsion, on the order of two or more justices of the peace. The resort to justices of the peace for the expulsion of labourers appears only to have been required between the 1st of August and the 1st of September 1838; after that period the power of expulsion was supposed to be vested in the masters. I take the liberty of mentioning here, that the reason why the huts were given by this Ordinance entirely to the master was not merely to prevent disputes, as between the master and the freeman, but in consequence of a very considerable number of the huts having, during the period of the apprenticeship, and during the period of slavery, been built by the negroes themselves. The Poor Law Ordinance, to which I have referred, was disallowed on the 15th of September 1838. There was passed also by the Court of Policy a Militia Ordinance of the 16th of July 1838. This Ordinance provided that no person who, on the 31st of July 1838, was an apprenticed labourer, shall be eligible to serve in the militia force of the colony; but for this Ordinance they would have been eligible to serve in the militia. This Ordinance was disallowed, for the reason I have assigned, by the Home Government. There was a Registration Ordinance passed on the 17th of July 1838; this Ordinance provided that a census of the population should be taken, and a registry kept of the same, distinguishing those who were formerly held as slaves or apprentices from those who were not. The Government disallowed this Ordinance on the 15th of September 1838, because it kept up an invidious distinction between the different classes of the population of that colony.

4277. Specially with regard to the laws in British Guiana regulating contracts, have you any statement to make to the Committee?—I have. The history of the Ordinances and Orders in Council respecting articled or indentured servants is not a little curious, and has occasioned great perplexity to many of the special justices in this colony, and great division of opinion among those appointed to explain and to administer the law. I beg to call the attention of the Committee to a brief statement of this matter. The Court of Policy

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of this Colony passed an Ordinance on the 22d of June 1836, which gave the planters the power of obtaining servants under indentures for seven years, (vide clause 10,) and of extending the period beyond seven years under the circumstances specified in clause 6. Subject to the regulations of this Ordinance, a considerable number of labourers were introduced, principally from Europe and the West India Islands, many of them under the most fraudulent pretexts. On their arrival in the colony, they were not allowed to land, their services transferred to those who offered the most for them, and after the high sheriff had ratified their indentures, which he usually did on board ship, they were sent off to the estates that had procured them under the foregoing circumstances. The wages ranged from one dollar to five dollars per month for field labourers, with a stipulated allowance of food, medicine, medical attendance, &c. The indentures which I have seen, usually gave two or three dollars per month, deducting therefrom a proportionate amount for absent and sick days. This sum I found to be entirely inadequate to their support, and the consequence was that the greater portion of the imported labourers were in the most wretched and degraded state; I should add, that the sum incurred in bringing them to the colony was also deducted, in certain proportions, from their monthly wages. On the 1st of March 1837, an Order in Council was issued confirming the aforesaid Ordinance, subject to certain exceptions and amendments. The principal amendments were as follows:— 1st. That no person who hath been, or shall be bound under indenture of service, shall by force of the said Ordinance be indentured servants after the expiration of three years from the date of their agreement. 2d. That no indenture of service entered into beyond the limits of the colony of British Guiana, should be of any force or effect unless it had been made in the presence of two magistrates, who were required to certify that the articled servant fully understood the terms of agreement, and that he had entered freely and voluntarily into the same. 3d. That no indenture of service entered into with any apprenticed labourer beyond the limits of the colony, should be of any force for more than 12 months from the date of agreement, and the power to set aside any such agreement of service vested in said apprenticed labourer on payment of the costs of his voyage. 4th. That all indentures which had been or should be made or entered into on the continent of Africa, or any of the adjacent islands inhabited wholly or in part by the negro race, should be absolutely null and void and of no effect. 5th. That the powers vested by the Ordinance in the sheriff or justice of peace should henceforth be exclusively confided to the special justices. The promulgation of this Order in Council rendered invalid most of the contracts of service which had been made; but it was soon discovered that the Order in Council of the 1st of March, in so far as indentured labourers were concerned, had reference exclusively to indentures or agreements entered into beyond the limits of the colony. They therefore proceeded to their estates, took advantage, I regret to say, of the ignorance and the circumstances of the labourers, cancelled the old indentures, and bound them by new ones on the old terms for the space of three years, although it was obviously intended by Her Majesty's Government that this class of persons should not be bound for more than one year. The high sheriff was among the very first to pursue this conduct, and he was joined by several members of the Court of Policy, the learned professions, and gentlemen of rank and standing in the community. The Government not only permitted the Order in Council to be thus violated, but, on the 11th December 1837, issued another Order in Council annulling the retrospective parts of that Order in Council of March 1837, giving legal validity to a large number of contracts which had been declared invalid about 10 months before, and left the poor creatures who had been inveigled into them to their fate. The Order in Council of the 1st March had been previously relaxed in favour of Mr. Gladstone's scheme for the introduction of Indian Coolies, the period of service having been extended, in reference to them, from three to five years, to oblige that gentleman. Under that Order in Council, two cargoes of Hill Coolies were introduced. On the 30th July 1838, two additional Orders in Council were issued, in which the Ordinance respecting indentured servants, passed by the Court of Policy on the 22d June 1836, and the Orders in Council of the 1st March 1837, and the 12th July 1837 (the

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Coolie Order in Council), and the 11th December 1837, were repealed and revoked. The new Orders in Council declare, that from the period of their promulgation in the colony, which took place on the 8th September 1838, all contracts with agricultural labourers which should thereafter be entered into without the limits of the colony, should be null and void and of no effect; and that contracts entered into with that class, to be binding, must thenceforth be made within the limits of the colony, under the superintendence of a special justice. It was provided, however, that nothing in these Orders in Council should be construed to annul or alter any contracts which had been entered into in pursuance of the authority of the said Ordinances and Orders in Council, and that during the continuance of such antecedent contracts they were to remain in full force. The alterations and changes which were thus effected in a period of two years in reference to contracts of service, in no wise benefited the parties they were intended to protect, except indeed in a few special cases. They raised hopes, however, in the breasts of many indentured labourers which were never realised; for months many of them indulged the expectation that their period of service would be limited to three years, and just as they were on the eve of enjoying the sweets of liberty they were again and again deprived of them. I hesitate not to say that the situation of the indentured servants on estates, when I was in the colony, was more melancholy and wretched than that of any other class of labourers. On the 7th September 1838 another Order in Council was issued by Her Majesty's Government, which limited all contracts which might be made after its promulgation, which took place on the 30th October following, to a period of one year. It left, however, untouched all contracts which had been entered into previous to the 30th July 1838, unless it could be proved that the parties to such contracts were induced to enter into the same by any fraud, misapprehension, misrepresentation, or concealment. The emigrants to this colony have been chiefly Portuguese, Irish, Maltese, Germans, liberated Africans from the Bahamas, and the late apprenticed labourers from the islands. Subsequently to this period, at the close of the last year, 1841, I am informed Her Majesty's Government relaxed the Order in Council so far as the subjects of this country are concerned; so that indentures for a stipulated period can be entered into here, which shall be binding on the emigrants to British Guiana. I beg to state that the Order in Council of 8th of September 1838, regulating contracts, applies to Trinidad, St. Lucia, the Cape of Good Hope, and the Mauritius, as well as to British Guiana. The same law is in force at this time in those several colonies.

4278. What measures have been adopted in the colony to promote immigration?—On the 21st of September 1838 the Court of Policy passed a series of resolutions on the subject of immigration; the substance of which was, that a great lack of agricultural labourers existed in the colony: "that it is necessary and expedient, therefore, to afford every facility to agricultural labourers inured to a tropical climate to emigrate to the colony: that the Governor be requested and authorised to appoint emigration agents in such places as he might think advisable, allowing them a premium of 10 *s.* per head for each emigrant properly selected, and 30 dollars per head for passage-money from Bahamas, and other places in proportion: that a proper registration and designation of emigrants be kept in the office of the emigration agent; and that the Governor issue a proclamation embracing the spirit of these resolutions." This was done, and Mr. Wolseley, of the secretary's office of the colony, was appointed agent for emigrants for British Guiana, and a notice issued from his office in conformity with the resolutions of the Court of Policy, offering immigrant agricultural labourers eight dollars per month, with house, garden, and medical attendance; and stating that "a day's labour is generally computed at seven and a half hours, though the work required by tariff can readily be performed in six, and an industrious labourer can with ease make two dollars per month for extra labour." Subject to the provisions of the Order in Council of the 7th September 1838, the resolutions of the Court of Policy were generally approved of by Her Majesty's Government, and several valuable suggestions were made by Lord Glenelg, then Colonial Secretary, to make the scheme work well. The next Ordinance relative to immigration was passed on the 26th of June 1839. This Ordinance contemplated a resort to Africa, and even to India, for immigrants, as

as well as to the West India colonies. It was objected to on that account, as may be seen by reference to the Parliamentary Papers.

4279. Has that Ordinance been modified at all by the Home Government?—Yes; that Ordinance was superseded by one passed on the 18th of January 1841; and that is the Ordinance which is in force at the present time in that colony.

4280. Can you give the Committee any information as to the general state of industry in the colony, subsequent to the complete emancipation of the slaves?—It is evident from the returns of produce exported from this colony during the first two years of freedom, as compared with corresponding periods during the time of slavery and apprenticeship, that there has been a considerable falling off. The question naturally arises, whether this is to be attributed to the indolence of the negro, or to other causes; and, if so, whether those causes are likely to be removed? A careful personal examination of the state of the colony, and of the official reports made to the Colonial Secretary by Governor Light, clearly show that the decrease is to be attributed to the change of employment occasioned by the transition from slavery to freedom, from the partial withdrawal of women from field labour, from the small rate of wages offered the labourers, from the attempt of some of the planters to impose upon them a nine hours' tariff for wages paid on other estates for seven and a half hours' labour, from blending the questions of rent and wages together, and the ejectments consequent thereon; but especially from the prevalence of long and severe droughts which prevailed in the colony during the years 1839 and 1840, as may be seen from the official reports of Governor Light to the Marquis of Normanby.

4281. With regard to one cause of the diminished produce, namely, the dry weather, is there any despatch referring particularly to that from Governor Light addressed to Lord Normanby?—There is a despatch dated 26th April 1839.

4282. Will you state the substance of that despatch?—Governor Light states, that for 72 successive days up to the 26th of April, there had been continued dry weather in the colony. I was there at the time this despatch was written home, and for at least three weeks afterwards the dry weather continued; such was its effect that canes literally rotted in the field from want of the means of bringing them to the buildings—the trenches, which are the ordinary means of conveyance from the fields to the buildings, having been dried up by the long continued drought which prevailed in the colony.

4283. Does that despatch refer in any other particular to the state of productiveness of the colony?—The Governor attributes the great diminution of produce that year to the drought; he states that the produce had fallen off one-third in consequence of the drought. There is also another despatch of his referring to the same subject, dated the 16th July 1839, which throws still further light upon the subject. I had an opportunity of visiting several estates during the prevalence of that drought, and was furnished at the time with various statements from the planters, of the loss they had sustained by its prevalence. On some estates, in consequence of the drought solely, there was a diminution in the produce of one-half, and on others one-third. I can, if the Committee require it, give the names of the estates upon which that occurred.

4284. On your last examination you put in a document called "Tariff of Labour;" has Governor Light referred to that document, and expressed any opinion upon it?—He has not expressed any particular opinion upon it, except with reference to an attempt made by some of the planters of Guiana, immediately after the 1st of August 1838, to introduce a tariff constructed upon the principle of nine hours' labour. The tariff in operation at present contemplates seven and a half hours' labour as the amount of a day's work. There are several other despatches in which the effect of the drought is referred to; there is a despatch from Governor Light to the Marquis of Normanby, dated the 15th of October 1839, another the 15th of June 1840. There is also a despatch of Governor Light which goes minutely into the question of the supply of labour, and the state of the colony, dated the 16th of July 1841.

4285. Can you give the Committee any information as to the state of crime in the colony?—With respect to the state of crime in the colony, in the year 1839, when I was in the colony, I obtained a statement myself from the authorities there, which is corroborated by one subsequently printed in the Parliamentary

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mentary Papers. The number of persons of all classes committed for trial during the year 1839 to George Town Gaol, Demerara, was 1,635; Wakenaam Gaol, Essequibo, 138; New Amsterdam Gaol, Berbice, 194; total, 1,967. The number convicted before the Inferior and Superior Criminal Courts is not given in the Returns. The greatest amount of committals were for trifling offences. In the absence of more specific information upon the point, the following extract from the address of the Governor to the Court of Policy, delivered the 28th February 1840, is particularly satisfactory: "Your colony is remarkable for a small amount of crime, and there are but few cases of an aggravated nature." I beg to state, that the greatest delinquents in the colony of Demerara have been found among the newly imported emigrants, as will be seen by a statement of the Colonial Secretary made in the Court of Policy during its session of 1841.

4286. Viscount *Chelsea.*] What class of emigrants do you refer to?—I refer principally to the Portuguese and the negroes from the old islands; no doubt the worst part of the population were the first to emigrate to British Guiana.

4287. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you give the Committee any information from your own visit as to the state of education and religious instruction in British Guiana?—There is an ample supply of education and religious instruction in British Guiana, not confined to any one body of Christians, but in connexion with the various bodies of Christians in the colony. I found in the colony that the Episcopal, the Presbyterian, the Roman-catholic, the Dutch Reformed, and the German Lutheran churches are sustained out of the colonial funds. The London Missionary Society and the Wesleyan Missionary Society have agents in the colony, who are very laboriously employed among the negroes. Those are sustained partly by funds raised in Great Britain, but principally by funds raised from the negroes in the colony; there is no lack in British Guiana of the means of education or religious instruction.

4288. Those funds are derived from duties on imports, are they not, chiefly?—Of late years, partly from duties on imports; I should not say chiefly, for there is a duty upon the exportation of sugar to this country, as well as an import duty on goods introduced into the colony.

4289. There is also some direct taxation?—There is some direct taxation.

4290. Did you, from your own observation, when you were in the colony, consider, and from the information you have had since, do you still consider, that the colony is in a prosperous state, or the contrary?—The statements I have received since I left the colony are so conflicting that it is hardly possible to arrive at a satisfactory or safe conclusion upon the question. If I might judge of the prosperity of the colony from the colonial revenues, I should say that it must be prosperous, for there is a very large amount of taxation raised in the colony.

4291. With regard to the value of property in George Town, has that increased or decreased?—It has increased from the 1st of August 1838 up to the present time, and I believe it is greater in value at present than at any previous period of the colony's history.

4292. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Are you speaking now of a matter that has come within your own personal knowledge, or from documents?—Of matters which have come within my own personal knowledge, and which are corroborated by documents which I have before me.

4293. It has not then come of your own personal knowledge entirely?—I answered the question generally; I said there were conflicting opinions, and I stated the ground upon which I formed my opinion. The information I have given is derived, up to the middle of the year 1839, from my own personal acquaintance with the fact; subsequently to that period, from private correspondence with the colony, and from public documents, which bear out my statement.

4294. Mr. *Hawes.*] Can you give the Committee any information as to the value of property in the rural districts?—Several estates were sold during the year 1839, whilst I was in the colony, which fetched very high prices; much higher prices than could be obtained during the period of slavery with the negroes upon them. In proof of which, as the estates are mentioned in the Parliamentary Papers, I may refer the attention of the Committee to those papers. In the despatch of Governor Light to the Marquis of Normanby, dated the 26th of June 1839, there is evidence upon this point; and I find by consulting the

the Papers subsequently to that period, that the prices of estates had not materially diminished.

4295. The emancipated negroes have purchased land extensively, have they not?—They have purchased land extensively in different districts of the colony.

4296. And for which they have paid very high prices to the proprietors?—In some cases they have paid a very exorbitant price for land which they occupy, to the proprietors.

4297. Do they cultivate those lands successfully?—They are bringing them into cultivation successfully.

4298. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] You have said that the labourers have given exorbitant prices for lands they have purchased; do you know how they became possessed of the funds for those purchases?—Partly from monies which were in their possession previously to their becoming freemen, which they had hoarded; partly as the result of their industry subsequently to the period of emancipation in 1834, when they obtained money for their extra labour during the period of apprenticeship, and partly from monies they have obtained by their labour as freemen.

4299. Mr. *Hawes.*] Have you any general observations to make upon the state of the colony since emancipation, founded upon the information you derived from your own visit to the colony?—My impression is, with reference to the colony of British Guiana, that there are several measures which would be of great service in relieving the colony from the pressure which is said to be upon it at the present moment. First, with respect to immigration: I conceive that not a few immigrants might be obtained from Barbadoes and from Antigua, without any serious loss being sustained by those islands from a free emigration of the people to British Guiana; I do not however think the advantages to be obtained by the emigrants in British Guiana are so very great as to draw a very large number of emigrants from the two colonies I have named.

4300. Is there any other measure which you would suggest?—I believe that a considerable number of labourers may be obtained for Trinidad, from the Spanish Main. There are a very large number of labourers who are in the habit occasionally of resorting to that island to sell their labour; that is to say, at particular periods of the year, principally during the crop season. It appears to me, that by judicious arrangements the planters of that colony might obtain a considerable supply of labour from the Spanish Main, by giving inducements to families to settle amongst them. I am of opinion, also, that Demerara and Trinidad might derive a very considerable supply of labour from the United States; both from the free States, where there are people of colour willing to emigrate, and also from the Southern or Slave States particularly. I believe, also, that if judicious arrangements were made for the reception of emigrants into the colony, several thousand labourers, black and coloured persons, might be obtained from Upper Canada; I found in my communications with the immigrants into the colony of British Guiana especially, (I am now speaking, particularly, with reference to the coloured and black population of the United States,) that it would be material, in their judgment, that they should have something like political rights if they emigrate to those colonies. They are deprived in the United States, to a great extent, of political rights, and are anxious, by emigrating to the British colonies, to secure rights in those colonies which at present they are not permitted to enjoy there. I think from those various sources a very considerable supply of labour might be obtained. With respect to the laws in the colony of British Guiana, and the Crown colonies generally, they appear to me to be as perfect as they well can be, affording equal protection to the employer and to the employed; I think any alteration made in the laws would be seriously injurious to the interests of the colonies I have mentioned.

4301. In your opinion, should the immigration be left entirely to private enterprise, subject only to the laws existing in the colony regulating the relations between master and labourer, or should the Government, in your opinion, in any way directly interfere?—I think it should be left to private enterprise, under the controlling power of the Government; and my reason for saying that is, that if it be left to private enterprise, then the colonial funds will not be appropriated to the introduction of immigrants. It will be found that very heavy expenses have been already incurred in the colony of British Guiana in the introduction

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of immigrants, and those funds are derived from the general taxation of the colony. The labourers themselves are large contributors to the taxes in the colony, and I do not think it is quite fair that they should bear any part of the burden of the introduction of immigrants into the colony.

4302. What species of control do you allude to, when you say that the Government should control immigration?—I think the Government should have an immigration agent in British Guiana, who should intimate to the immigrants the state of the law upon their arrival. I think there should also be a receptacle for immigrants established in the colony, so that when they arrive in the colony they should not at once be cast loose; perhaps they may arrive in ill health, or they may not have time allowed them to enter into engagements with masters. If they could have a place of reception, if it were only for a week or ten days, it would be exceedingly desirable, inasmuch as I know, with reference to immigrants introduced during the time I was in the colony, that frequently they came in large numbers, without having a place to receive them, either in George Town, the place of landing, or upon the estates upon which they were indentured; and I have known very great mortality to be the result of the want of such place of reception.

4303. Have you any statement to make in relation to the laws of Antigua, affecting the labouring population of that colony?—They are by no means so liberal as are the laws of the other colonies generally in reference to the relation that subsists between master and servant. I have before me the law regulating contracts, and I find by this law, that the receipt of a week's wages, or entering upon the occupation of a house or tenement situated upon the estate, is held to be equal to an implied contract to labour upon that estate, and which contract cannot be set aside without a month's notice on the part of the labourer. Now, it is known to those who have resided in the colonies, that frequently husbands and wives do not reside upon the same estate; they do so upon the system of freedom to a much greater extent than they did under slavery and apprenticeship, when their separation was frequently caused by the circumstance of their belonging to different owners or proprietors. It happens therefore, that if a female labourer or a male labourer comes upon an estate, and occupies a hut, though it may be with the intention of remaining a night or two, with his family or his friends, yet he is brought under an implied contract to labour, and can only get rid of that contract by giving a month's notice. Then I find that in the hands of the magistrates who administer this law, who are planters generally, it is found to bear exceedingly hard upon the labouring population. A verbal agreement is not required, but merely an implied contract arising out of the occupancy of a hut even for a single night. On consulting the 7th and 8th clauses of the Antigua Act, passed on the 10th of August 1835, it will be seen how very hardly this law bears upon the rights of the negro population. I would also direct the attention of the Committee to the 2d clause of the Act, in which it will be seen that the penalties inflicted upon masters and servants for offences committed under this Act are by no means reciprocal. I find for instance, that a labourer may be punished for any miscarriage or ill behaviour, with one month's imprisonment in the house of correction, or by abating wages, or by discharging such servant; but that any ill-usage or misusage on the part of the employer, can only be punished by voiding the contract. There is no reciprocity here. It will be seen that in the one case there is a heavy penalty for any miscarriage or ill behaviour on the part of the labourer, while any act committed by the master against the servant is only punished by voiding the contract.

4304. Viscount *Howick*.] You said that you thought immigration into British Guiana should be managed by private enterprise; in what manner do you think it is possible that immigration could be conducted by private enterprise?—Previously to the passing of the last Ordinance the planters regulated immigration by putting it under the direction of a committee in Guiana, with considerable funds at their disposal; they were able to introduce immigrants, and they did introduce a considerable number of immigrants, and I have no doubt would have gone on introducing immigrants to the extent of their ability and wants, if the Government had not furnished them with an immigrant Ordinance, under which they are now able to go to the colonial funds for the purpose.

4305. You

4305. You think that the best arrangement would be, that there should be a private subscription among the planters to raise money for the purpose and apply that money to the purposes of immigration?—Yes; they were able by a plan of taxation upon themselves to raise above 20,000 *l.* for immigration in one year, and they would have continued thus voluntarily to have taxed themselves for the introduction of immigrants into the colony, if their arrangement had not been superseded by the Immigration Ordinance, which enabled them to apply to the colonial funds.

4306. Is it not improbable that sufficient funds would ever be raised for the purpose by voluntary subscription. Would not the jealousy of parties to each other prevent that?—It does not appear to be the case, as I find that the planters at a public meeting which they held at George Town, voluntarily taxed their produce at so much per cent. per annum for that purpose. There was no difficulty in it whatever; the planters came forward generally.

4307. Mr. *Barclay.*] In the event of immigration being conducted by private enterprise, must not the immigrants to be introduced be located upon the estates of those who subscribe?—Not so; there is an Ordinance in the colony which would prevent that; they are brought into the colony, and choose their own masters, but when a body of planters advanced money amongst themselves, no doubt arrangements would be made satisfactory to themselves, in order to effect the location of the immigrants who might come into the colony.

4308. Do you think the planters would subscribe for the purpose of bringing in those labourers, if they were not sure of having the benefit of their labour?—I can only refer to the fact of their having engaged voluntarily to tax themselves to the extent of 20,000 *l.* for the purpose of introducing immigrants, under the Order in Council of the 7th of September 1838, which leaves the negro on his arrival in the colony of Guiana free to select his own master.

4309. In order that the labourer may be entirely free to choose his own master, and make his own terms, do not you think it desirable that the immigration should be conducted by the Government at the cost of the colony?—I think not; I think that if the planters are willing to tax themselves for the purpose of introducing immigrants, all the Government would have to do, would be to see that the law regulating contracts between master and servant was fairly carried into effect, as between the employer and the employed.

4309*. Do you think that the state of the laws in the Crown colonies with respect to the relation between master and servant is as perfect as it can be?—The laws regulating the relation between master and servant, are as perfect, I think, as they can be.

4310. You include in that Demerara and Trinidad?—Demerara and Trinidad, Saint Lucia, the Cape of Good Hope, and the Mauritius.

4311. If the laws are as perfect as they can be in regard to contracts between master and servant in the Crown colonies, do you not think it undesirable to introduce topics of reference to former Ordinances which have been disallowed, and which are calculated to excite irritation between master and servant?—I think not; if the object in view in introducing references to past Ordinances be for the purpose of showing that the tendency of those Ordinances was to destroy the confidence between the master and the servant. I think, in order to avoid an evil of that kind in future, it should be known that such was the tendency of those Ordinances.

4312. Notwithstanding that the state of the law is as perfect as it can be at present?—Now; but that has been in consequence of the agitation connected with the Ordinances which has led to that perfection.

4313. *Chairman.*] You stated that you visited the colony of Demerara in 1838, how long did you stay there?—I remained there till July 1839.

4314. In British Guiana, when did freedom commence?—On the 1st of August 1838.

4315. You have not been in the colony of British Guiana since July 1839?—Not since that time.

4316. From what quarters have you derived your information as to the state of affairs in British Guiana from July 1839 to the present time?—From the correspondence of missionaries and others, who reside in the colony.

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4317. Have you many correspondents in British Guiana?—Many.

4318. Have you corresponded with any proprietors or planters?—Not with any proprietors or planters, with one exception.

4319. Or with official persons?—With persons holding official offices.

4320. Then whatever statements you may have made to the Committee with reference to the state of affairs in British Guiana since July 1839, and especially with reference to the relation between master and workman, since that period, have been derived from correspondence with persons residing in British Guiana?—Partly from that source, and partly from the printed official documents which have been laid before Parliament.

4321. You have stated that you consider the laws, as they at present exist in British Guiana, with regard to contracts for labour, to be amply sufficient for the protection both of master and servant?—Yes.

4322. You think that the laws are sufficient to insure to the employer full justice in every sense?—Full justice in every sense.

4323. You have stated in the course of your examination, in answer to questions 4246 and 4247, that it was expected that the occupation of a hut and provision grounds would give a claim, on the part of the proprietor, to the labour of the person who held it; and that in consequence of that labour not having been given, you have yourself known many instances of ejectments having taken place?—I have.

4324. Do not you think that the fact of the proprietors having been obliged to have recourse to frequent ejectments, in consequence of the idleness of the labourers as regards working for them, is, in some degree, a proof that they stand in need of further protection than they now enjoy?—I think not, for this reason, that they had the power of ejecting, or supposed they had the power of ejecting, any labourer they chose if he did not do the work they required from him, at the wages they were willing to give him.

4325. Cannot you suppose a case in which the necessity of ejecting a labourer by process of law, turning him out of his cottage and getting a fresh man in his place, might be attended with great prejudice and great injury for the moment with regard to the cultivation and the manufacture of sugar?—That will depend entirely upon the relation which is understood to exist between the employer and the employed. If the labourer be under a verbal contract to work upon an estate for 28 days, which contract he can be brought under by the law of the colony, and he does not perform the work required of him, a special justice can be appealed to, and a man can be punished for not performing the work required of him.

4326. Do you not hold it to be indispensable, for the fair protection of the planter, that he should be entitled to the work of the labourers who are living rent free upon his property?—I think that question lies at the very root of the evil under which British Guiana principally suffers at the present time. There has never been a proper understanding between the employer and the employed as to the tenure under which they shall hold possession of their huts and provision grounds. A planter makes labour the tenure by which the labourer shall hold his hut, but the labourer considers himself as a tenant paying rent, in the shape of work, for the hut which he occupies; and this is the question in debate between the planter and the labourer at the present time.

4327. What right has the labourer to consider that he is paying rent in the shape of work?—Simply because the labourer can obtain a larger amount of wages if he labour upon another estate than he does upon the estate upon which he resides; consequently he thinks he is paying rent in the shape of service for the hut he occupies: for instance, a man instead of getting a mere guilder for the performance of a task, can get five bitts, a guilder and a quarter, for the performance of a task. He therefore considers himself as paying one bitt per diem for the occupancy of his hut.

4328. Do you mean that that distinction is generally acted upon in British Guiana, and is recognised as the rule, that the resident labourers upon the estate receive only a guilder, while the labourers who do not live upon the estate receive five bitts?—Decidedly; the labourer who comes to work upon an estate,

estate, but who does not enjoy the benefit and advantage of a hut and provision grounds upon the estate, is paid larger wages than a man who lives upon the estate.

4329. Is the regular rate of wages for a resident labourer only a guilder at the present time?—I am informed that it is a guilder only for the first task at the present time; if there be a second task performed by the labourer, then five bitts are given to him. A guilder is 1*s.* 4½*d.* sterling.

4330. You stated in your evidence on a former day, that in your opinion the supply of labour in British Guiana was sufficient, but that the inducements held out by the planters were insufficient to secure to them the advantage of continuous labour; does not the labourer enjoy the premises upon which he lives, including provision grounds, rent free?—He enjoys them rent free.

4331. Does not he receive gratuitous medical attendance?—He does.

4332. Does not he receive 1*s.* 4½*d.* sterling for a quantum of work which only occupies him six hours in the execution of it?—That is the amount of wages which he receives for a task, whatever may be the time which it may take him to perform it.

4333. And that task occupies, upon the average, six hours?—For able-bodied labourers, not for the second class; and that is independent of the time taken up in going to and returning from his hut to the place of his labour. The estates in Guiana, some of them, are very large, and it not unfrequently takes him an hour to reach the place of his labour.

4334. Is not the last condition to which you have adverted one which applies to labour under all circumstances, and in all places, that the labourer must go from his house to the place of his labour, wherever it may be?—It is very distant sometimes in Guiana.

4335. What is the greatest distance you have known a labourer go in British Guiana?—Six miles.

4336. Having admitted that the labourers receive a house and provision grounds rent free, medical attendance gratuitously, and 1*s.* 4½*d.* sterling for six hours work, what further inducements would you think it desirable that the planters should hold out to them to obtain from them continuous labour?—The inducement would be to render the labourer independent in the occupation of his house and provision grounds, charging him rent for his house and provision grounds, and paying him a proportionate sum for his labour.

4337. That is, you think it would be very desirable to establish a system of rent in British Guiana?—Decidedly.

4338. Has there not been an Ordinance before the Court of Policy lately for the establishment of a system of rents in British Guiana?—There has.

4339. In the absence of any such Ordinance being passed, is it any matter of blame on the part of the planters that they have not a system of rent?—No; the object of the late Ordinance, which I am sorry to find has not gone through its various stages, and is not law, was to bring into effect the law of this country, by which tenements under 20*l.* value can be recovered by a shorter and more summary process than houses of a larger rent can be taken possession of under the general law of this country. Such arrangements as are desirable with regard to the occupation of huts and provision grounds, and the amount of rent to be paid for both, can be made under the existing laws in the colony, but they are not considered sufficiently stringent with reference to the power of ejectment, and therefore a new law is required upon that point.

4340. And therefore no blame attaches to the planters for not adopting a system of tenancy?—I think very great blame attaches to them; because I think they would have smoothed the way to the confidence of the negro, by making him a tenant upon the property, rather than by holding over him the threat of ejectment at any time when they might choose to turn him off the estate.

4341. Are there not difficulties in the way of any such system, on account of the absence of the requisite law?—No; though it might be desirable to alter the law, giving a more summary power of ejecting than the ordinary law of the colony warrants at the present time, I think that a system of renting might

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have been introduced, with the most beneficial effect both to the master and to the servant, if it had been commenced from the 1st of August 1838.

4342. That is to say, you think that even under the present law the proprietors might have introduced a system of renting the cottages to the labourers?—That is my opinion.

4343. But still that is a question which is open to a difference of opinion as to the policy of taking that course?—It is an opinion entertained by the occupiers of estates, that they would be placed too much at the mercy of their labourers, if they were to enter upon a system of rental for the huts and provision grounds. That is an opinion current in the colony. But that is not the opinion of all individuals who have had an independent opportunity of ascertaining the feelings of the labouring population of the colony.

4344. What other inducements should you think it desirable that the planters should hold out to the labourers to work more continuously?—I think another inducement should have been the permission of purchasing lots of land upon the estates for the formation of free villages, instead of undertaking the erection of cottages at their own expense; that is, at the planters' expense. I think that if free villages had been established as soon after the 1st of August as it was possible, the purchasers of lots of land in those free villages, in connexion with the estates, would have had a deeper interest in remaining upon the estates than they now have. I think that would have afforded a very great inducement to them to have continued upon the estates, and to have given a larger amount of labour to them than they are said to do at the present time.

4345. That again is a mere question of policy and of opinion, is it not?—It is a question of policy and opinion. The reason of my stating that now which has always been an opinion of mine, is, that it is corroborated by the fact, that the labourers are forming independent villages wherever they can; and, in some instances, forming those villages off the estates; and I believe that the tendency of the population of Guiana at the present moment is to separate themselves from the estates entirely, or to obtain lots of land upon them, on which to build cottages for themselves, where they may be in the position of independent labourers, to sell their labour to the best market.

4346. Has not the plan of letting and selling lots of land to the negroes been already extensively acted upon?—Not extensively acted upon. One or two villages in connexion with estates have been formed in British Guiana, in the neighbourhood of George Town.

4347. What other inducements do you think should be held out to the workmen to give continuous labour?—I think either the one or the other of the inducements I have mentioned would have been sufficient; both of them, certainly, would have been amply sufficient to have secured a larger amount of labour to the estate than is said at present to be possessed.

4348. In the absence of a system of rents for their cottages and provision grounds, and of selling or letting plots of land for independent residences for the negroes, do you mean to say that you think that the great advantages of large wages and premises rent free, and medical attendance gratuitously, are not sufficient inducements to lead to continuous labour on the part of the negroes?—I do not think the wages are high, for this reason, that independent of the provisions raised on the grounds, the negroes could not exist on the present money-wages.

4349. You think the wages themselves are insufficient?—I think they are insufficient.

4350. Do you think that it is desirable that the labourers in the West Indies should be on a better footing, or free from those restraints which attend free labourers in other parts of the world?—I think not; I would place them on the same legal footing on which the labourers of this country are placed.

4351. Do you know any part of the world in which a labourer would be allowed to live rent free upon the property of his employer, and not to give his employer any labour in return?—I do not know any case of the kind, and I do not know a case of the kind existing in Demerara.

4352. Then why have the ejectments taken place to which you have referred?—They have sometimes arisen from mere caprice, and sometimes they have arisen from

from the labourer not performing the amount of work required of him, not from his not performing any work at all.

4353. Do you mean that you are not aware of great complaints having existed in Demerara of the negroes not having done any work upon the estates on which they resided?—I have heard complaints of that kind; but when I was in the colony I found they were not well founded.

4354. Are you prepared to state that such complaints have not existed, and justly, between 1839 and 1842?—I cannot speak from personal knowledge during that period; but I believe they have not existed by any means to the extent which has been supposed and alleged.

4355. You stated that the mode of payment of the labourer is unjust; in what respect do you hold that the mode of payment of the labourer is unjust?—When the labourer has deductions made from the amount of wages paid to him without his previous consent having been obtained for such deduction, I think the short payment of wages under such circumstances to be unjust.

4356. When you use the word "deductions," do you refer to the system which has obtained of exacting rent, or a fine on those days when the labourer does not work for his proper employer?—I do; that system was in force upon many very large estates in the colony of Guiana, when I was there in 1839.

4357. Are you not aware that that was a system to which the master was driven in his own defence in consequence of not being able otherwise to obtain regular work from his labourers?—That argument was used by a planter near George Town, because he found that his people who could obtain a larger amount of remuneration by cutting grass near George Town, did not render him the amount of labour which he thought he had a right to expect.

4358. However unjust you may think that mode of payment, is it not a system which it is always in the power of the labourer to escape from by giving continuous labour to his employer?—What the employer might consider to be continuous labour might not square with my idea of what should be considered a fair amount of labour to be given to the estate for the accommodations enjoyed upon the estate.

4359. You consider that the labour on the estates was not continuous, because the inducements to the labourers were not sufficient?—Not so continuous as the planters desired; but on many estates the labour was unquestionably continuous, and where it was not continuous, it might easily be traced to some cause of dissatisfaction on the part of the negroes; to a want of confidence on the part of the negro in his master, or to the mode in which the payment of the wages was made, a deduction having been made from the wages without previous consent, or on account of the planter having assumed the power of ejectment from huts and provision grounds, which was always held *in terrorem* over the negro.

4360. Are you aware that that system of deduction for labour not performed, whether just or unjust, was a system which was in several instances carried on with the concurrence of the stipendiary magistrates?—I believe that previously to my arrival in the colony, it was carried on in some districts with the concurrence of the stipendiary magistrates, but after I came to the colony, it was proved by decision of a court of law to be an illegal deduction, and I thought would after that be abandoned.

4361. Was there any other respects in which the mode of payment was in your opinion unjust?—Yes; where instead of paying money, tickets or goods as they were called, were given, that is, pieces of paper which were alleged to be good for a dollar or a guilder. Those were given to the labourers, and they were made exchangeable at certain stores, sometimes the stores being upon the estate, and if those tickets were by any accident lost or mislaid by the labourer, although his name stood in the books as a creditor for a certain amount of wages, those wages were refused him.

4362. That is the system to which you adverted when you spoke of the truck system?—I consider it to be a truck system, and a very bad one.

4363. Is it in general operation in the colony?—I am informed that it has been abandoned since 1840 very generally throughout the colony of Guiana.

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4364. What facilities were there for that truck system previously to 1840; were there stores upon many estates?—There were a considerable number of stores. They were increasing in 1839 when I was in the colony. I feel it, however, to be an act of justice to certain planters to say, that stores were placed upon some of the estates for the accommodation of the negroes, or else they would have had to travel 10 or 20 miles to obtain supplies. But that was not generally the case.

4365. Were there many estates where those stores were kept for the purpose of facilitating the truck system?—They were increasing in number in various districts of the colony when I was there in 1839, but I understand that subsequently to that, in consequence of communications from the Government against the truck system, they have been abandoned to a very considerable extent.

4366. You stated that a struggle had been maintained between the planters and the labourers, with a view to obtaining from the labourers the same amount of labour as they gave during the period of slavery, and that this struggle had led to a bad feeling, and consequently to idleness on the part of the labourers. Do you think that that struggle has been kept up to the present period?—I do not think that it has been kept up to the present period; I believe a better understanding is existing between the employers and the employed at the present time.

4367. Supposing such struggle to have existed, when did it cease, and how did it end?—I think it must be considered to have ceased with the strike that has recently taken place.

4368. What do you consider to have been the result of the struggle?—I believe the result of the struggle to have been to create great dissatisfaction in the mind of the negro, and to lead to great want of confidence.

4369. As regards the quantity of labour given, what has been the result of the struggle?—I think it has considerably diminished the amount of labour given.

4370. You say that the result of the struggle was a failure, on the part of the masters, to obtain the object which you suppose them to have been seeking?—Yes.

4371. You stated that the wages at present paid to the workmen, you should consider, with the provision grounds, to be adequate, but that without the provision grounds, you should consider them quite inadequate to sustain the negro. You gave in other parts of your evidence answers to this effect; that the general condition of the negroes has improved; that they have saved large sums of money; that they have, in large numbers, bought lots of land, and that they contribute to missions and to schools. Now if the rate of wages they have been receiving was so inadequate to sustain them, how was it that they were enabled to accomplish all those objects requiring a large expenditure of money?—In the first place, I should observe that the negroes are exceedingly frugal; they are in the habit of spending very little upon themselves except upon occasions of marriages and baptisms and births, and other things of that kind. Their usual food is plantain and salt fish. The only purchase, therefore, they have to make generally is the salt fish as a condiment to the plantain. Their plantains or their yams they raise upon their own provision grounds, so that they have no occasion to lay out any of the money they receive in return for their labour on the estates, inasmuch as they are able to raise a sufficient supply of provisions from their grounds. I should also state, that the labourers, especially those near the towns, have the privilege of cutting grass, generally for persons who keep horses in the towns, and they obtain very considerable sums of money from that species of labour. That work is usually performed after they have performed their tasks upon the estates. Again, the labourers in British Guiana supply the markets with a very considerable amount of vegetables, and as the growth of vegetables in the colony has been very greatly diminished since the abolition of slavery, they obtain a very high price for the vegetables which they so raise and bring to market. Those sources, together with another I mentioned in a former answer, namely, the money hoarded by slaves during the period of slavery, by apprentices during the period of apprenticeship, and by freemen

freemen subsequently to complete emancipation will, I think, account for the fact of their possessing considerable sums of money, and appropriating those moneys to the purchase of lands and to the support of missions and schools.

4372. You stated in a subsequent answer, that the labourers had saved large sums?—When I say that they have saved large sums, that appears evident from the amount of money they have expended in the purchase of lots of land.

4373. Then whatever your opinion may be as to the amount of money wages paid, altogether the remuneration for their labour is so amply sufficient, that the labourers are enabled to enrich themselves by their labour?—With the possession of the provision grounds, the wages are amply sufficient.

4374. Is the amount sufficient to enable him to make large savings?—That appears to be the fact.

4375. Then how do you reconcile that statement with the statement you made in a former part of your examination, that one cause of the distress existing in British Guiana, was the small amount of wages offered to the labourers?—When I speak of the small amount of wages, I refer to money wages, not to the other incident of the occupation of provision grounds, but money wages exclusively.

4376. You think the smallness of the money wages is one of the causes of the present distress in British Guiana?—I believe there is reaction in this way: the negro has not thought himself sufficiently well paid when it has been confined to money wages in return for his labour, and that has led to dissatisfaction on his part, and consequently to his giving to the estate a less amount of work than he was compelled to do as a slave, and during apprenticeship. During slavery the price of free labour was twice and three times as high as it is now; and during apprenticeship, according to valuations of the time of the negro, for the unexpired term of the apprenticeship, it was twice as high as it is now. The labourer therefore thought that he was under-rated when a guilder was given to him for the same amount of work for which he got two guilders when he was an apprentice.

4377. Do you think that the feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the labourer with his wages, while, at the same time, he is becoming rich, and is able to buy property, is a just dissatisfaction?—It is only a small portion of them that can buy property; those who live near towns principally, because they have advantages superior to those in the country districts, arising from the nearness of markets, where they can sell the grass which they cut, or the surplus provisions which they raise.

4378. You have stated generally that, on account of the smallness of their wages, a feeling of dissatisfaction exists; but you have stated, at the same time, that small as the wages are, the labourer receives a remuneration which enables him to become wealthy; do you think, then, that there is any ground for such a feeling of dissatisfaction on his part?—That will entirely depend upon the view he takes.

4379. What is your own opinion?—My statements are founded upon an extensive knowledge of the feelings of the negroes, right or wrong, upon this and all other questions affecting their interests; and my answer was given as to the feeling of the negro, from my knowledge of what his feeling was.

4380. Then you do not identify your own opinion with the opinion of the negro?—I have stated that I think the amount of wages given, in connexion with the provision grounds, sufficient.

4381. In adverting to the compensation for his labour which the negro receives, do you think it is fair to separate the money wages from the other advantages given to him?—I think it is fair to separate the money wages from the other advantages given to him, when I know that those money wages, independently of the provision grounds, would not sustain him. That can be proved by reference to the prices of provisions in the colony, if they were compelled to purchase instead of growing them.

4382. You have stated that the revenue of the colony has greatly increased, and that that is a proof of the prosperity of British Guiana. Does not that increase of revenue arise principally from the increased introduction of articles of comfort and luxury, which are purchased by the negroes?—It arises no doubt, in part, from that cause.

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4383. Does not that go again to prove that the compensation he receives for his labour is amply sufficient?—It does not prove that, certainly.

4384. If it was not amply sufficient, how could he purchase those articles?—He might purchase articles, and yet the reward of his labour might not be sufficient to purchase many more articles which he might desire.

4385. It appears that the actual amount of British manufactures sent to British Guiana for the clothing and comfort of the negroes is much greater than it used to be during slavery, consequently an increased quantity is purchased by the negro as compared with what he used to have. Does not that prove that the return for his labour is amply sufficient for the purchase of those luxuries?—It does not prove that it is amply sufficient; it only proves that he is possessed of the means of supplying himself with those articles to a greater extent than when he was a slave.

4386. Supposing his wages were insufficient, would it not be easy for him to remedy the insufficiency by working more days in the week, and more hours in the day, than he now does?—Certainly.

4387. Do not you think it is most desirable, for the fair protection of the planter, that some means should be devised of making the labourers work fairly every day of the week, as every European labourer does, and work more hours in the day than they do?—I think it would be very desirable that the labourers in Guiana and elsewhere, should perform as much work as they are physically able to do, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of the estates. But where points of difference exist between the employer and the labourer, as is the case in Guiana, I think those points of difference must be settled between them previously to any expectation that matters will take that course which one would desire they should.

4388. Then you admit that under the present system, from some cause or other, the labourer in British Guiana does not give that supply of labour which you think, under a wholesome state of things, he ought to do?—He does not give that supply of labour which he would do, if those points of difference were settled.

4389. You have stated that not a few immigrants might be obtained from Bardadoes and Antigua, have you formed any opinion how many might be derived from those quarters?—From the best information I have upon the question, I think that from 5,000 to 8,000 labourers might be taken from Barbadoes without serious injury to that colony.

4390. How many from Antigua?—I should say 2,000 or 3,000.

4391. With reference to the Antigua law, you stated that husbands and wives frequently resided upon different estates; when you say that, do you mean persons who are legally married, or persons who have been cohabiting together?—Persons who are legally married, or who are reputed as husbands and wives, and who have families.

4392. How does it happen that they live on different estates?—It arises from various circumstances; sometimes, for instance, the wife may have contributed to the erection of her own hut, and feels that she has something like property in her hut, on a neighbouring estate, and may not feel disposed to leave it for that reason; or perhaps attachment to the estate may induce her to continue there. Again, having other relations residing upon the estate, she may prefer residing upon that estate rather than live with her husband upon the estate where he is located; and as this has been the practice for many years it is not felt as it would be here.

4393. How does the fact of the wife preferring to live with her own relations rather than with her husband, prove anything bad or vicious in the law of the colony?—It does not prove anything bad or vicious in the law; but if there is a law which makes the individual a labourer upon the estate, when she comes upon the estate to see her husband, or to remain there a day or two, it bears hard upon her.

4394. Why should not she go and live with her husband, as wives do in other countries?—I do not know why we should compel her to do so.

4395. Do you think that a wife not liking to live with her husband is a sufficient reason for changing the law?—That certainly is not a sufficient reason for changing the law; but if the law bears hardly upon the labourer, independently

pendently of that circumstance, it is a reason for altering it; my objection is a general objection to the law itself, inasmuch as it brings the labourer under an implied contract, without any verbal agreement on his own part.

4396. Your second objection was, that the fact of a visit of a few days from one estate to another would be considered as amounting to an occupation, thereby bringing the person within the scope of the law, and compelling him to remain upon the estate, and give his labour to the estate?—That is, unquestionably the fact as it stands. The law reads thus, "The receipt of a week's wages by any such servant in husbandry, or artificer, handicraftsman, or other labourer, from his or her master, mistress, or employer, or the entering into the occupation of a house or tenement situate upon the estate of such master, mistress, or employer, in the character of a servant in husbandry, or artificer, handicraftsman, or other labourer, to such master, mistress, or employer, shall be sufficient *primâ facie* evidence of a retainer in service, under a general hiring, within the terms and provisions of this Act."

4397. Do the terms which you have just read, of entering into the occupation of a house in the capacity of a servant, meet your ideas of a person visiting from one estate to another?—They do; I know it to be the practice in the interpretation of the law.

4398. Mr. *Hawes.*] Have you known a wife visiting her husband to be construed to be a person entering into the service of the master by reason of that visit to the cottage of her husband?—I have known cases of that kind occur in British Guiana previously to the present laws; I can only speak of what I have known under the operation of a similar law. It will be found that one of the laws of British Guiana was a copy of the law of Antigua, and it was so construed; I have known also that husbands and wives could not enter without passes from one estate to another since freedom has been established in British Guiana.

Mercurii, 15° *die Junii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. C. Howard.
Viscount Chelsea.	Viscount Howick.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Captain *Joseph Arthur Allen*, called in; and further Examined.

4399. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] YOU stated to the Committee that you had been several years a stipendiary magistrate in British Guiana. The line of your duty is given to you in writing?—Yes; to act under the Orders in Council.

4400. All your instructions are in writing; none of them are given verbally?—We receive no verbal orders.

4401. Your principal duty is to regulate any differences between the labourer and his employer, and award justice to each?—Certainly.

4402. Among other things do you give into the Governor a half-yearly report on the character of the peasantry, and any improvements, and any new institutions, &c.; in fact, five principal heads of that kind?—We have done so latterly.

4403. One head is "the State and Prospects of Cultivation"?—Yes.

4404. Noticing the supply of labour, the rate of wages, the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next?—Yes.

4405. With reference to this last head, "the state and prospects of cultivation," are you practically acquainted with the management and cultivation of sugar

Capt. *J. A. Allen.*
15 June 1842.

sugar estates?—I have considerable knowledge of how estates are generally conducted.

4406. Is that knowledge greater than any casual observer may acquire?—I have many opportunities of knowledge; being called in to witness and to decide any disputes regarding the description of work on various estates; that has afforded me an opportunity of knowing more than any casual observer was likely to have done, and particularly with regard to field work.

4407. Then do you conceive that you have more than a general knowledge of planting?—I have a general knowledge of how the work is conducted in the field; I can judge of the quantity of work that may or ought to be done within a certain time; I have also attended to the general routine of cultivation, how things are conducted.

4408. Not being required by your instructions to make out any estimate of the cost of production, or of the net profits from estates in your district, you have taken upon yourself to give in a half-yearly report to Governor Light, in July 1841, and have accompanied such report by a "Return of certain Estates in district M., showing their amount of produce, expenditure, and net profits, for the year 1840"?—On certain estates I have; to show that certain estates in my district were, as I considered, particularly successful, or that the result was highly satisfactory.

4409. You brought that report forward to show that the result was highly satisfactory?—On certain estates in the district; according to my view of the case.

4409*. Do you conceive that it was part of your duty to inquire into the expenditure and net profits?—No, I was not required to do so; but I considered that every information of the kind was valuable to the Governor and to the Government.

Jovis, 16° *die Junii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Charles Howard.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Villiers Stuart.
Mr. Hawes.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Burge, Esq. called in; and Examined.

JAMAICA.

Wm. Burge, Esq.
16 June 1842.

4410. *Chairman.*] WHAT has been and what is now your connexion with the island of Jamaica?—I was 20 years at the bar in Jamaica; during the last 12 of those years, and until I left the island, in 1828, I was attorney-general. In the year 1830 I was appointed agent for Jamaica, under an Act of the legislature of the island. The appointment is for three years. I have been subsequently re-appointed at the expiration of each period of three years, and I still hold the office.

4411. Can

W. Burge, Esq.

16 June 1842.

4411. Can you furnish any authentic return to the Committee, showing the extent of land in Jamaica, and how much of it remains at present ungranted by the Crown?—Yes. A return was made under a commission issued by Sir Lionel Smith, the late governor of the colony, to three gentlemen in Jamaica, for the purpose of examining the records of the island, and ascertaining the extent of the land of which the island consisted. The island of Jamaica is divided into three counties, the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, and Cornwall. Those gentlemen referred to the secretary's office, where they found the records of all grants of land made by the Crown; and by means of those records they were enabled to ascertain the quantity of land of which the island consisted. This is the Report that has been presented to Parliament. The result is this: the number of acres of land in the whole island has been generally estimated at 4,000,000, and that which has been granted by the Crown appears to consist of 3,403,359 acres, leaving about 596,641 acres unaccounted for. There are 1,440,653 acres in the county of Middlesex, 636,580 in the county of Surrey, 1,326,126 in the county of Cornwall, making together 3,403,359. This Return I now deliver in.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

JAMAICA.

Patented Lands.

EXTRACT from Parliamentary Papers relative to the Affairs of *Jamaica*, Part I. p. 67, 1840.

THE number of acres of land in the whole island has been generally estimated at 4,000,000; and that which has been patented, by records in the Island Secretary's Office, appears to be 3,403,359, leaving (should the estimate be correct), 596,641 acres unaccounted for.

A RETURN showing the TOTAL NUMBER of ACRES of LAND Patented in each Parish (after deducting what was included therein as either re-patented or escheated), from the earliest Period to the Year 1838, inclusive.

COUNTIES.	Net Number of Acres, taken from the Island Secretary's Return of Dockets, from 1664 to 1838.	
MIDDLESEX.		
Parishes:		
St. Catherine, exclusive of Foot Land	184,929	
St. John	112,918	
St. Dorothy	17,414	
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	179,723	
Clarendon	370,812	
Manchester	4,980	
Vere	47,151	
St. Mary	204,109	
St. Ann	318,617	
		1,440,653

(*continued*)

COUNTIES.	Net Number of Acres, taken from the Island Secretary's Return of Dockets, from 1664 to 1838.	
Parishes: SURREY.		
Kingston, Foot Land	735	
Port Royal, Foot Land	13,846	
St. Andrew	129,845	
St. David	69,811	
St. Thomas, East, Foot Land	97,283	
Portland	160,314	
St. George	164,746	
		636,580
Parishes: CORNWALL.		
Trelawny	49,129	
St. James	350,388	
Hanover	45,098	
Westmoreland	184,327	
St. Elizabeth	697,184	
		1,326,126
		3,403,359

In those parishes where Foot Land has been taken up, the quantity is not stated in this Abstract, as the dockets and records do not afford that information.

4412. Can you inform the Committee what quantity of land is at present ungranted in the colony?—I am not able to state the precise quantity that is ungranted, but there is a very inconsiderable quantity which has not been granted; almost the whole of the island has been granted. The actual quantity has generally been estimated at four millions of acres; the quantity which appears to be granted consists of 3,403,359 acres. That has been ascertained by the returns which have been made. But there is this to be observed, that although the returns represent the number of acres granted to each patentee, yet as the land granted is described by certain boundaries, it happens that in point of fact the grant often contains more than the number of acres it professes to contain; and therefore, upon a very careful examination, it would be found that there remains scarcely any of the land ungranted by the Crown.

4413. The whole island in fact is private property?—It is.

4414. Has the actual value of the land in Jamaica been ascertained?—Yes, for the purpose of supplying some increased sources of taxation, there was a valuation made of the lands in the Island of Jamaica. The valuation is of hereditaments. This description of course would include the works upon the lands; the amount of the valuation is 14,000,521 *l.* 12 *s.* 2 *d.*

4415. When and how was that valuation made?—That valuation was made by valuators or assessors appointed under an Act of the Legislature of the island, passed the year before last, who made that valuation on oath. A power was given to parties to appeal against the valuation if it was too high. This tax is to be paid on the annual value of the hereditaments; and the Act directs the valuators to fix the annual value by calculating six per cent. on the full value so previously ascertained and returned by them. The Act to which I refer is the 4th Vict. c. 54, passed the 22d December 1840.

4416. Mr. *Hawes.*] Was any similar valuation made at any preceding period?—No; this is a return made under the authority of the House of Assembly, of

of "all parochial and public taxes, rates, and dues, laid, received, or to be collected for the current year, 1841." The first item contains a statement of the actual value of the hereditaments in each of the parishes in the island, making the grand total which I have just mentioned of 14,000,521 *l.* 12 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling.

4417. *Chairman.*] Does that valuation include any estimate for live stock in the island?—No; the horned stock and the breeding mares and followers upon the property are classed under a different head; they are not included in the valuation.

4418. Mr. *Hawes.*] Will you state the amount of the assessed value upon which the taxation was founded?—£.840,031. 6 *s.* 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*

4419. *Chairman.*] Has the value of the live stock been ascertained?—I shall have an opportunity of stating presently the amount of the tax paid upon that, which will give some notion of the amount of it, but there is no statement of the actual value here.

4420. Do you mean that 14,000,521 *l.* is the gross value, and 840,031 *l.* is the income arising from that value?—The Act directs the full value to be ascertained by the assessors, and then they are to fix the annual value by calculating six per cent. on that full value. The annual value thus calculated at six per cent. is 840,000 *l.*; and upon this latter sum the tax is to be paid.

4421. What is the nature of this tax for which the valuation is made?—It is a tax of 6*d.* sterling in the pound upon the annual value thus ascertained, namely, the 840,000 *l.*

4422. As a property tax?—Yes.

4423. Upon what principle was six per cent. determined upon as the amount upon which the tax was to be paid?—It was taken doubtless because it was the island rate of interest on money. The value of the hereditaments being found to be 14,000,000 *l.*, the interest on that amount, at six per cent., is 840,000 *l.*

4424. From what you have said, it appears that the six per cent. is a mere arbitrary amount decided upon as that which would afford sufficient for the purposes required, and the gross value was ascertained in order to enable them to arrive at an equitable decision with regard to the amount which should be paid?—The sum of 14,000,000 *l.* is returned by the assessors as the value of the capital. The ordinary interest of the colony, the rate of six per cent., is calculated upon the amount of that capital, and gives the annual sum of 840,031 *l.*

4425. Then it does, in fact, virtually amount to a tax, not upon real income, but upon supposed income; it assumes the capital to be worth six per cent.?—Just so. It is a tax on the amount of the annual interest, at six per cent. on the capital.

4426. And upon the income so calculated the tax is laid?—Yes.

4427. Upon what principle and at what rate is the tax raised upon the assessment of six per cent.?—The tax thus imposed by the Act of 1840 is 6*d.* sterling in the pound on the annual value, calculated in the manner I have stated. I will put in the return, which will fully explain the amount of the taxation imposed by the different parishes for parochial purposes, independently of that which is imposed for the whole island, or, as it is called, public taxation; and also the amount of that public taxation, imposed for public purposes.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

A RETURN of all Parochial and Public Taxes, Rates, and Dues,

NAME OF PARISH.	PAROCHIAL TAXES. HEREDITAMENTS. Actual Value.	Rate per Cent.	Assessed Value.	Rate per £.	Amount of Taxes.	RIDING HORSES. (Agricultural Exempted.) Number.	Rate per Head.	Amount of Taxes.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.		s. d.	£. s. d.
St. Dorothy	238,457 8 3	6 p' ct.	14,307 8 10¾	a' 3 –	2,146 2 3	488	a' 7 6	183 – –
St. Ann	1,088,200 – –	—	65,292 – –	– 2 11	9,521 15 –	2,241	– 7 6	840 7 6
St. Mary	1,034,838 – –	—	62,090 6 –	– 5 6	17,074 16 8	1,274	– 7 6	477 15 –
St. George	489,546 7 9	—	29,372 15 8	– 2 –	2,937 6 2	1,108	– 7 6	415 10 –
St. Elizabeth	649,500 – –	—	38,970 – –	– 4 –	7,794 – –	1,601	– 7 6	600 7 6
Kingston	1,375,013 13 7	—	82,500 16 5	– 4 –	16,500 3 3	275	– 7 6	103 2 6
Clarendon	725,721 2 3	—	43,543 5 4	– 4 –	8,708 13 1	1,796	– 7 6	673 10 –
Vere	346,412 16 11	—	20,784 15 5	– 1 7½	1,662 15 8	2,047	– 7 6	767 12 6
St. John	310,769 3 4	—	20,446 2 11	– 3 6	3,578 15 8	637	– 7 6	238 17 6
Manchester	772,129 7 10	—	46,327 15 3	– 1 6	3,474 11 1	1,512	– 1 6	113 8 –
Port Royal	167,827 8 7	—	10,069 12 11	– 2 –	1,006 19 4½	401	– 5 6	110 5 6
St. Thomas-in-the-East	821,377 1 8	—	49,282 12 6	– 3 –	7,392 7 10½	1,250	– 7 6	468 15 –
Trelawny	1,255,600 – –	—	73,336 – –	– 2 3	8,475 6 –	2,465	– 7 6	924 7 6
Portland	255,532 15 7	—	15,331 19 4	– 5 –	3,832 19 10	181	– 7 6	67 17 6
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	365,488 13 7	—	21,929 6 5	– 5 –	5,482 6 7	1,317	– 7 6	493 17 6
St. David	241,000 14 –	—	14,460 1 –	– 3 –	2,168 9 3	526	– 7 6	197 – –
St. James	1,149,900 – –	—	68,994 – –	– 2 6	8,624 5 –	3,325	– 7 6	1,246 17 6
St. Andrew	467,850 – –	—	28,071 – –	– 3 4	4,678 – –	1,648	– 2 6	206 – –
Hanover	736,666 13 4	—	44,200 – –	– 3 6	7,735 – –	1,196	– 7 6	448 10 –
St. Katharine	446,606 18 10	—	26,796 8 4	– 5 1	6,810 15 1	1,430	– 7 6	536 5 –
Westmoreland	1,032,083 6 8	—	61,925 – –	– 4 –	12,385 – –	2,698	– 7 6	1,011 15 –
£.	14,000,521 12 2	—	840,031 6 4¾	– –	41,990 7 10	29,416	– –	10,125 1 –

NAME OF PARISH.	PAROCHIAL TAXES. TRADES. Assessed Value.	Rate per Cent.	Amount of Taxes.	TRANSIENT TRADERS. Assessed Value.	Rate per Cent.	Amount of Taxes.	RUM AND TAVERN LICENCES. Number.	Rate each.	Amount of Taxes.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£.	£. s. d.
St. Dorothy	– – –	– –	68 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	8	a' 10	80 – –
St. Ann	– – –	– –	165 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	41	– 6	246 – –
St. Mary	11,370 – –	a' 2 p' ct.	227 8 –	– – –	– –	– – –	28	– 12	336 – –
St. George	– – –	– –	210 15 –	– – –	– –	31 6 2½	22 2 1	– 12 – 6 – 9	285 – –
St. Elizabeth	– – –	– –	505 1 6	– – –	– –	– – –	30	– 5	150 – –
Kingston	– – –	– –	710 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	80	– 24	1,920 – –
Clarendon	– – –	– –	240 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	30	– 9	270 – –
Vere	– – –	– –	– – –	– – –	– –	– – –	9	– 12	108 – –
St. John	– – –	– –	57 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	7	– 5	35 – –
Manchester	86,490 – –	a' ¼ p' ct.	216 4 6	– – –	– –	– – –	39	– 6	234 – –
Port Royal	– – –	– –	– – –	– – –	– –	– – –	5 3	– 10 – 7	71 – –
St. Thomas-in-the-East	– – –	– –	824 – –	– – –	– –	14 3 10	28	– 12	336 – –
Trelawney	– – –	– –	279 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	32	– 10	320 – –
Portland	4,210 – –	a' 10 p' ct.	421 – –	120 – –	a' 2 p' ct.	2 8 –	9	– 13	117 – –
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	– – –	– –	– – –	– – –	– –	– – –	25	– 12	300 – –
St. David	– – –	– –	– – –	– – –	– –	– – –	8	– 6	48 – –
St. James	– – –	– –	437 – –	– – –	– –	12 – –	40	– 15	600 – –
St. Andrew	– – –	– –	– – –	– – –	– –	– – –	20	– 20	*400 – –
Hanover	– – –	– –	350 – –	– – –	– –	– – –	30	– 6	180 – –
St. Catherine	– – –	– –	200 16 3	– – –	– –	– – –	20 1	– 18 Tavern	360 – – 30 – –
Westmoreland	– – –	– –	265 16 –	– – –	– –	– – –	10	– 6	60 – –
£.	– – –	– –	5,177 1 3	– –	– –	59 18 –½	528	– –	6,486 – –

Laid, Received, or to be Collected for the Current Year 1841.

PAROCHIAL TAXES.

BREEDING MARES AND FOLLOWERS.			HORNED STOCK, &c.			ASSES.			WHEELS.		
Number.	Rate per Head.	Amount of Taxes.	Number.	Rate per Head.	Amount of Taxes.	Number.	Rate per Head.	Amount of Taxes.	Number.	Rate per Pair.	Amount of Taxes.
	s. d.	£. s. d.		d.	£. s. d.		d.	£. s. d.		s.	£. s. d.
417	a' 1 6	31 5 6	3,069	a' 9	115 1 9	35	a' 9	1 6 3	74	a' 12	44 8 –
3,088	– 1 6	231 12 –	20,915	– 9	784 6 3	272	– 9	10 4 –	260	– 24	156 – –
1,681	– 1 6	126 1 6	11,896	– 9	446 2 –	– –	– –	– – –	16	– 24	19 4 –
777	– 1 6	58 5 6	4,539	– 9	170 4 3	– –	– –	– – –	– –	– –	– – –
4,716	– 1 6	353 14 –	16,360	– 9	613 10 –	– –	– –	– – –	166	– 36	149 8 –
– –	– –	– – –	40	– 9	1 10 –	5	– 9	– 3 9	178	– 72	860 8 –
681	– 1 6	51 1 6	5,745	– 9	215 8 9	– –	– –	– – –	124	– 24	74 8 –
426	– 1 6	31 19 –	4,335	– 9	170 1 3	108	– 9	4 1 –	104	– 40	104 – –
171	– 1 6	12 16 6	1,495	– 9	56 1 3	153	– 9	5 14 9	18	– 6	5 8 –
2,464	– 1 6	184 16 –	9,080	– 9	340 11 –	21	– 9	– 15 9	88	– 6	26 8 –
51	– 1 –	2 11 –	329	– 6	8 4 6	479	– 6	11 19 6	– –	– –	– – –
2,905	– 1 6	217 17 6	5,533	– 9	207 9 9	787	– 9	29 10 3	150	– 60	225 – –
483	– 1 6	36 4 6	14,598	– 9	547 8 6	– –	– –	– – –	372	– 20	372 – –
38	– 1 6	2 17 –	2,117	– 9	79 7 9	105	– 9	3 18 9	15	– 24	18 – –
298	– 1 6	22 7 –	4,886	– 9	183 4 6	652	– 9	24 9 –	51	– 24	61 4 –
451	– 1 –	22 11 –	1,802	– 6	45 1 –	1,059	– 9	39 14 3	60	– 12	36 – –
187	– 1 6	14 – 6	10,171	– 9	381 12 –	138	– 9	5 3 6	300	– 40	300 – –
– –	– –	– – –	2,548	– 6	63 14 –	1,177	– 9	44 2 9	464	– 12	278 8 –
261	– 1 6	19 11 6	13,647	– 9	516 15 3	– –	– –	– – –	82	– 10	41 – –
376	– 1 6	28 4 –	4,918	– 9	184 8 6	269	– 9	10 1 9	474	– 43	545 2 –
2,718	– 1 6	203 17 –	19,457	– 9	729 12 9	270	– 9	10 2 6	222	– 10	111 – –
22,189	– –	1,651 12 6	157,485	– –	5,859 15 9	5,530	– –	201 7 9	3,518	– –	3,427 6 –

PAROCHIAL TAXES.

SUGAR AND COFFEE LICENCES.			GUN LICENCES.			HAWKERS' LICENCES.			POUNDS.	Marine Hospital.	TOTAL.
Number.	Rate each.	Amount of Taxes.	Number.	Rate each.	Amount of Taxes.	Number.	Rate each.	Amount of Taxes.	Amount of Taxes.	Amount of Taxes.	Total Amount of Parish Taxes.
	s. d.	£. s. d.		£. s.	£. s. d.		s.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1	a' 3 –	– 3 –	3	a' – 10	1 10 –	– –	– –	– – –	30 – –	– –	2,700 16 9
20	– 20 –	20 – –	34	– – 10	17 – –	6	a' 40	12 – –	50 – –	– –	12,054 4 9
4	– 6 –	1 4 –	19	– – 10	9 10 –	49	– 60	147 – –	127 19 7	112 16 4	19,105 17 1
3	– 20 –	3 – –	15	– – 10	17 10 –	6	– 60	18 – –	7 15 –	– –	4,154 12 1½
			1 gun-powder	– 10 –							
– –	– –	– – –	36	– – 10	18 – –	7	– 40	14 – –	– –	– –	10,198 1 –
93	– – 6	2 6 6	6	– – 10	3 – –	162	– 12	97 4 –	– –	– –	20,197 18 –
– –	– –	– – –	10	– – 10	5 – –	21	– 80	84 – –	– –	– –	10,322 1 4
2	– 3 –	– 6 –	– –	– –	– – –	3	– 60	9 – –	50 – –	– –	2,907 15 5
3	– 5 –	– 15 –	8	– – 10	4 – –	3	– 60	9 – –	42 – –	– –	4,045 8 8
– –	– –	– – –	22	– – 10	11 – –	14	– 80	56 – –	30 – –	– –	4,687 14 4
14	– 3 –	2 2 –	14	– – 10	7 – –	– –	– –	– – –	– –	– –	1,220 1 10½
– –	– –	– – –	20	– – 10	10 – –	20	– 60	60 – –	– –	– –	9,785 4 2
– –	– –	– – –	57	– – 10	28 10 –	25	– 30	37 10 –	– –	800 – –	11,820 6 6
4	– 3 –	– 12 –	39	– – 10	19 10 –	10	– 40	20 – –	11 15 5	– –	4,597 6 3
33	– 3 –	4 19 –	34	– – 10	17 – –	7	– 80	28 – –	27 – –	– –	6,644 7 7
6	– 3 –	– 18 –	20	– – 10	10 – –	8	– 60	24 – –	– –	– –	2,591 13 6
8	– 3 –	1 4 –	30	– – 10	15 – –	40	– 24	48 – –	– –	– –	11,685 2 6
10	– 1 8	– 16 8	6	– – 10	3 – –	8	– 20	8 – –	100 – –	– –	5,782 1 5
– –	– –	20 – –	40	– – 10	20 – –	12	– 25	15 – –	– –	– –	9,345 16 9
1	– 3 –	– 3 –	7	– – 10	3 10 –	10	– 24	12 – –	100 – –	– –	8,821 5 7
– –	– –	– – –	31	– – 10	15 10 –	26	– 24	31 4 –	– –	– –	14,823 17 3
202	– –	58 9 2	452	– –	234 10 –	437	– –	729 18 –	576 10 –	912 16 4	177,491 12 10

Continued on p. 322.

PUBLIC TAXES.

NAME OF PARISH.	HEREDITAMENTS. Rate per £.	HEREDITAMENTS. Amount of Taxes.	HORSES. Rate per Head.	HORSES. Amount of Taxes.	BREEDING STOCK. Rate per Head.	BREEDING STOCK. Amount of Taxes.	HORNED STOCK. Rate per Head.	HORNED STOCK. Amount of Taxes.
	d.	£. *s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	*d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	*d.*	£. *s.* *d.*
St. Dorothy	a' 6	357 13 8½	a' 2 6	61 – –	a' 6	10 8 6	a' 3	38 7 3
St. Ann	– 6	1,632 6 –	– 2 6	280 2 6	– 6	77 4 –	– 3	261 8 9
St. Mary	– 6	1,552 5 2	– 2 6	159 5 –	– 6	42 – –	– 3	148 14 –
St. George	– 6	734 6 4½	– 2 6	138 5 –	– 6	19 8 6	– 3	56 14 9
St. Elizabeth	– 6	974 4 –	– 2 6	260 2 6	– 6	117 18 –	– 3	204 10 –
Kingston	– 6	2,062 10 4	– 2 6	34 7 6	– 6	– – –	– 3	– 10 –
Clarendon	– 6	1,088 11 3	– 2 6	224 10 –	– 6	17 – 6	– 3	71 16 3
Vere	– 6	519 12 4	– 2 6	255 17 6	– 6	10 13 –	– 3	56 13 9
St. John	– 6	511 3 –	– 2 6	79 12 6	– 6	4 5 6	– 3	18 13 9
Manchester	– 6	1,158 3 8	– 2 6	189 – –	– 6	61 12 –	– 3	113 10 –
Port Royal	– 6	251 14 10	– 2 6	50 2 6	– 6	1 5 6	– 3	4 2 3
St. Thomas-in-the-East	– 6	1,232 1 4	– 2 6	156 5 –	– 6	72 12 6	– 3	69 3 3
Trelawny	– 6	1,883 8 –	– 2 6	308 2 6	– 6	12 1 6	– 3	182 9 6
Portland	– 6	383 7 –	– 2 6	22 12 6	– 6	– 19 –	– 3	26 9 3
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	– 6	548 4 8	– 2 6	164 12 6	– 6	7 9 –	– 3	61 1 6
St. David	– 6	361 6 –	– 2 6	65 15 –	– 6	11 5 6	– 3	22 10 6
St. James	– 6	1,724 17 –	– 2 6	415 12 6	– 6	4 13 6	– 3	127 4 –
St. Andrew	– 6	1,046 3 6	– 2 6	158 2 6	– 6	1 13 6	– 3	31 17 –
Hanover	– 6	1,105 – –	– 2 6	149 10 –	– 6	6 10 6	– 3	170 11 9
St. Catherine	– 6	669 18 2	– 2 6	178 15 –	– 6	9 8 –	– 3	61 9 6
Westmoreland	– 6	1,548 – –	– 2 6	337 5 –	– 6	67 19 –	– 3	243 3 3
£.	–	21,344 16 4	–	3,688 17 6	–	556 7 6	–	1,971 – 3

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4428. Under what authority was this tax imposed?—Under the authority of the Act passed in 1840, 4th of Victoria, chapter 54. Under that Act assessors are appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the value of all lands, tenements, hereditaments, and premises, which the owners and possessors thereof are required to give in; and the assessors, by the 18th section, are to proceed to value those lands according to the best of their skill and judgment, and they are to fix the annual value of all such lands, tenements, and so forth, by calculating six per cent. on the full value so previously fixed and ascertained. They are then to publish a roll, containing the names of the persons, and the sums at which they have valued the property, in order that persons dissatisfied may appeal from their valuation. This valuation is to furnish the roll from which the different parishes are to raise their taxes; and the justice and vestry of each parish are left to make such rate on the annual value as the exigencies of the parish may require. This accounts for the variations you see in the rates which are charged upon that valuation in the columns for parochial taxes. This Act was passed, as all the money bills are in Jamaica, only for one year; but another Act was passed on the 14th January 1842, 5 Vict. c. 52, for continuing the same species of tax. It increases, however, the public rate to be levied on the annual value from 6 *d.* sterling to 2 *s.* in the pound; and it limits the rate for parochial taxation to 3 *s.* in the pound on such value.

4429. Was that valuation considered satisfactory, or were there many appeals entered against it?—My impression is, in some instances there were appeals against valuations; some were corrected; but I have no reason to believe that the valuation has been at all substantially dissented from.

4430. Viscount *Howick.*] Is this valuation and amount of taxes stated in currency or in sterling money?—All the sums in that Return are in sterling money. In the year 1840 an Act was passed for the purpose of assimilating the currency in Jamaica to the sterling money of England. The former currency of Jamaica valued the dollar at 6 *s.* 8 *d.*, giving 140 *l.* currency for 100 *l.* sterling; but to place 100 *l.* sterling in England, a premium of about 18 per cent. was paid; so that, in fact, 100 *l.* sterling in England was worth 166 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, or 500 dollars in Jamaica. A sovereign passed for five dollars, or 1 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* By this new Act the current money of Jamaica is assimilated to English money; a pound is five dollars, or 1 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* of the old currency.

4431. *Chairman.*] Can you furnish the Committee with any accurate or official statement of the number of the labouring population at the time of the termination

PUBLIC TAXES.

ASSES.		WHEELS.		TRADES.		Amount of Land Tax.	Amount of Quit-Rent.	Total Amount of Public Tax.	GRAND TOTAL.
Rate per Head.	Amount of Taxes.	Rate per Pair.	Amount of Taxes.	Rate per Cent.	Amount of Taxes.				
d.	£. s. d.	s.	£. s. d.	p' ct.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
a' 3	– 8 9	a' 12	22 4 –	– –	17 – –	280 17 6	63 4 9	851 4 5½	3,552 1 2½
3	3 8 –	– 12	78 – –	– –	41 5 –	1,627 3 3	361 19 11	4,362 17 5	16,417 2 2
3	– – –	– 12	9 12 –	a' ½	56 12 –	709 10 3	147 16 9	2,825 15 2	21,931 12 3
3	– – –	– 12	12 12 –	– –	52 3 9	750 14 3	189 4 4	1,953 8 11½	6,108 1 1
3	– – –	– 12	49 16 –	– –	126 5 4½	1,407 18 10	281 11 9	3,422 6 5½	13,620 7 5½
3	– 1 3	– 12	143 8 –	– –	177 10 –	25 2 –	– – –	2,443 9 1	22,641 7 1
3	– – –	– 12	37 4 –	– –	60 – –	919 8 –	183 17 7	2,602 7 7	12,924 8 11
3	1 7 –	– 12	52 – –	– –	100 10 –	452 18 1	90 11 7	1,540 3 3	4,447 18 8
3	1 18 3	– 12	5 8 –	– –	14 5 –	306 5 10	61 5 2	1,002 17 –	5,048 5 8
3	– 5 3	– 12	26 8 –	a' 1-16th	54 1 1	1,205 18 4	241 3 8	3,050 2 –	7,737 16 4
3	5 19 9	– 12	– – –	– –	– – –	195 – 11	66 10 6	574 16 3	1,794 18 1½
3	9 16 9	– 12	45 – –	– –	206 – –	801 16 3	191 4 9	2,783 19 10	12,569 4 –
3	– – –	– 12	111 12 6	– –	69 15 –	1,077 13 7	215 16 8	3,860 19 3	15,681 5 9
3	1 6 3	– 12	9 – –	a' 2½	105 5 –	318 1 10	122 10 2	989 11 –	5,586 17 3
3	8 3 –	– 12	30 12 –	– –	820 2 8	563 7 4	112 13 5	2,315 16 1	8,960 3 8
3	13 4 9	– 12	18 – –	– –	– – –	327 9 –	65 9 9	885 – 6	3,476 14 –
3	1 14 6	– 12	90 – –	– –	109 5 –	998 18 –	199 15 7	3,672 – 1	15,357 2 7
3	14 14 3	– 12	139 4 –	– –	– – –	530 19 3	106 3 11	2,028 17 11	7,810 19 4
3	– – –	– 12	24 12 –	– –	87 10 –	841 13 –	188 3 2	2,573 10 5	11,919 7 2
3	3 7 3	– 12	142 4 –	– –	66 18 9	404 18 11	225 12 6	1,762 12 1	10,583 17 8
3	3 7 6	– 12	66 12 –	– –	66 14 –	1,361 11 1	271 18 10	3,966 10 8	18,790 7 11
– –	69 2 6	– –	1,113 8 6	– –	2,231 2 7½	15,107 5 6	3,386 14 9	49,468 5 5½	226,959 18 3½

termination of slavery in Jamaica?—I have an extract from a return made to Parliament by the Commissioners of Compensation. It is to be found in page 354 of the Return presented to Parliament on the 16th of March 1838. In that return there are two classes of labourers, prædial attached and prædial unattached. The number of the prædial attached was 198,898; that of the prædial unattached, 19,558. The rest of the slaves for whom compensation was given are non-prædials, consisting of persons following occupations apart from estates, and their number was 36,000. Then there were children under six years of age, in number 39,013, and the aged and diseased or otherwise non-effective, and runaways. But, in my view of the actual number of the labouring population at the termination of slavery, you could take only those two numbers, the prædial attached and prædial unattached, namely, 198,000 and 19,558, making together the aggregate amount of 217,558.

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4432. You mean that as regards the labouring population, those two numbers are to be taken as the aggregate amount?—Yes, as the aggregate amount of the labouring population. The non-prædials ought not to be reckoned, because they consist of domestic servants, inferior domestics, persons employed on wharves and shipping, or head tradesmen and inferior tradesmen, but not connected with the estate.

4433. Do those numbers include both sexes?—Yes.

4434. Do they include children?—They include children above six, but not under six.

4435. *Chairman.*] When you exclude the aged, do you mean persons so aged as to be unfit for work?—Yes; aged, diseased, and otherwise non-effective.

4436. This calculation only includes the slave population?—Yes.

4437. At that time was there any large amount of free labourers?—Very few. It is a very striking circumstance that the coloured population did not, prior to the abolition of slavery, engage in agricultural pursuits. The principal part of the free persons of colour were generally engaged about the towns, either as domestics, or in following mechanical occupations.

4438. Viscount *Howick.*] Were there any free coloured people engaged in the cultivation of provisions on their own account?—In the cultivation of provisions on their own account I have no doubt, but to a comparatively limited extent.

4439. But to whatever extent it was, they must be considered an addition to

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the agricultural labouring population?—Yes; but a very limited number indeed of the coloured persons was ever found in the country or upon estates at all; they were principally living in the towns.

4440. Mr. *Hawes.*] Has there been any estimate formed of the proportion which the runaways bear to the attached and unattached prædial labourers?—The number of runaways is stated in the Return to be 1,075; the aged, diseased, and otherwise non-effective, are 15,692.

4441. *Chairman.*] What classes are included in those words "otherwise non-effective"?—Those who were incapable of working, and those who were not called out to work.

4442. Mr. *Hawes.*] From age or infirmity solely?—From age and from infirmity, and some exempted by law, in consequence of having reared a certain number of children; perhaps from having some disease or some lameness.

4443. *Chairman.*] Can you furnish to the Committee a statement of the present amount of public and parochial taxation in Jamaica?—The paper I have already given in shows the whole amount of the revenue derived from the parochial taxation in Jamaica, and part of that which is derived from public taxation. The addition to the revenue from the public taxation therein mentioned is a duty upon foreign goods, and on imports and exports, which are estimated at 120,000*l.*; the customs tonnage, 14,000*l.*; the cattle and horse duty, 2,600*l.*; the tea duty, 1,200*l.*; the rum duty, 25,000*l.*; the stamp duty, 25,000*l.*; and the estimated revenue from sugar and coffee consumed in the island, 20,000*l.*

4444. Viscount *Howick.*] Among the items of revenue you have just enumerated there is a duty upon exports; can you state what is the rate of that duty upon sugar and coffee, the staples of the island?—By the Act now in force, the 5th of Vict. c. 23, according to the Schedule (B), which contains the amount of the duties upon goods exported, there is imposed, for every cwt. of sugar, a duty of 1*d.*; on every gallon of rum, one farthing; on every cwt. of coffee, 3*d.*; every cwt. of ginger, 3*d.*; every ton of dye wood, 3*d*; and there is a duty on all refined sugar, made and manufactured from foreign sugar, of 3*d.* per lb. in addition to all other duties imposed.

4445. *Chairman.*] The Committee have had laid before them a statement of the amount of exports from the West India colonies submitted to Parliament, in which the exports from Jamaica of rum, sugar, and coffee are stated; do you desire to offer any explanation with regard to that statement?—I wish to lay before the Committee a statement of the exports of those articles from Jamaica, during a period long antecedent to that comprised in the statement referred to in this question; and I now present to the Committee a General Return of those Exports from the Island of Jamaica for 57 years, ending 31st December 1841, containing an abstract from the Journals of the House of Assembly, laid before Parliament in 1838, and the statement referred to in this question.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

A GENERAL RETURN of EXPORTS from the Island of *Jamaica*, for Fifty-seven Years, ending 1841.

Year when Exported.	SUGAR.			RUM.				Molasses.	GINGER.		PIMENTO.		COFFEE.
	Hhds.	*Tierces.*	*Barrels.*	*Puncheons.*	*Hhds.*	*Casks.*	*Barrels.*	*Casks.*	*Casks.*	*Bags.*	*Casks.*	*Bags.*	*Pounds.*
1772	69,451	9,936	270	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	841,558
1773	72,996	11,453	849	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	779,303
1774	69,579	9,250	278	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	739,039
1775	75,291	9,090	425	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	493,981
1776	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1788	83,036	9,256	1,063	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,035,368
1789	84,167	10,078	1,077	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,493,282
1790	84,741	9,284	1,599	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,783,740
1791(*a*)	85,447	8,037	1,718	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,299,874
1792	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1793	77,575	6,722	642	34,755	879	- -	- -	- -	62	8,605	420	9,108	3,983,576
1794	89,532	11,158	1,224	39,843	1,570	- -	- -	- -	121	10,305	554	22,153	4,911,549
1795	88,851	9,537	1,225	37,684	1,475	- -	- -	- -	426	14,861	957	20,451	6,318,812
1796	89,219	10,700	858	40,810	1,364	- -	- -	- -	690	20,275	136	9,820	7,203,539
1797	78,373	9,963	753	28,014	1,463	- -	- -	- -	259	29,098	328	2,935	7,869,133
1798	87,896	11,725	1,163	40,823	2,234	- -	- -	- -	119	18,454	1,181	8,961	7,894,306
1799(*b*)	101,457	13,538	1,321	37,022	1,981	- -	- -	- -	221	10,358	1,766	28,273	11,745,425
1800	96,347	13,549	1,631	37,166	1,350	- -	- -	- -	444	3,586	610	12,759	11,116,474
1801	128,251	18,704	2,692	48,879	1,514	- -	- -	- -	12	239	648	14,084	13,401,468
1802	129,544	15,403	2,403	45,632	2,073	473	205	366	23	2,079	591	7,793	17,961,923
1803	107,387	11,825	1,797	43,298	1,416	- -	- -	461	51	3,287	867	14,875	15,866,291
1804	103,352	12,802	2,207	42,207	913	- -	- -	429	1,094	1,854	1,417	19,572	22,063,980
1805(*c*)	137,906	17,977	3,689	53,211	1,328	133	167	471	315	2,128	288	7,157	24,137,393
1806	133,996	18,237	3,579	58,191	1,178	- -	- -	499	485	1,818	1,094	19,534	29,298,036
1807(*d*)	123,175	17,344	3,716	51,812	1,998	- -	- -	699	512	1,411	525	19,224	26,761,188
1808	121,444	15,836	2,625	52,409	2,196	- -	- -	379	436	1,470	225	6,529	29,528,273
1809	104,457	14,596	3,534	43,492	2,717	- -	- -	230	2,321	572	24,022	1,177	25,586,668
1810	108,703	4,560	3,719	42,353	1,964	- -	- -	293	520	1,881	4,276	21,163	25,885,285
1811	127,751	15,235	3,046	54,093	2,011	- -	- -	446	1,110	2,072	638	22,074	17,460,068
1812	105,283	11,357	2,558	43,346	1,531	- -	- -	151	804	1,235	598	7,778	18,481,986
1813(*e*)	97,548	10,029	2,304	41,618	1,345	382	874	208	816	1,428	1,124	14,361	24,623,572
1814(*f*)	101,846	10,485	2,575	43,486	1,551	202	1,146	145	884	1,668	394	10,711	34,045,585
1815	118,767	12,224	2,817	52,996	1,465	574	1,398	242	1,493	1,667	844	27,386	27,362,742
1816(*g*)	93,881	9,332	2,236	35,736	769	281	903	166	2,354	1,118	851	28,047	17,289,393
1817	116,012	11,094	2,868	47,949	1,094	203	916	254	3,361	1,196	946	15,817	14,793,706
1818	113,818	11,388	2,786	50,195	1,108	121	191	407	2,526	1,067	941	21,071	25,329,456
1819	108,395	11,450	3,244	43,946	1,695	602	1,558	253	1,714	718	882	24,500	14,091,983
1820	115,065	11,322	2,474	45,361	1,783	106	460	252	1,159	316	673	12,880	22,127,444
1821	111,512	11,703	1,972	46,802	1,793	153	534	167	984	271	1,224	24,827	16,819,761
1822(*h*)	88,551	8,705	1,292	28,728	1,124	9	442	144	891	72	699	18,672	19,773,912
1823	94,905	9,179	1,947	35,242	1,935	20	118	614	1,041	60	1,894	21,481	20,326,445
1824(*i*)	99,225	9,651	2,791	37,121	3,261	5	64	910	2,230	52	599	33,306	27,677,239
1825 (*k*)	73,813	7,380	2,858	27,630	2,077	101	215	894	3,947	348	537	20,979	21,254,656
1826	99,978	9,514	3,126	35,610	3,098	1,852	- -	549	5,724	517	522	16,433	20,352,886
1827	82,096	7,435	2,770	31,840	2,672	1,573	- -	204	4,871	240	3,236	26,691	25,741,520
1828	94,912	9,428	3,024	36,585	2,793	1,013	- -	189	5,382	279	4,003	25,352	22,216,780
1829	91,364	9,193	3,024	36,285	2,009	563	- -	66	4,101	168	3,733	48,933	22,234,640
1830	93,882	8,739	3,645	33,355	2,657	1,367	- -	154	3,494	15	5,609	37,925	22,256,950
1831	88,409	9,053	3,492	34,743	2,846	982	- -	230	3,224	22	2,844	22,170	14,055,350
1832	91,453	9,987	4,600	32,060	2,570	1,362	- -	799	4,702	38	3,736	27,936	19,815,010
1833(*l*)	78,375	9,325	4,074	33,215	3,034	977	- -	755	4,818	23	7,741	58,581	9,866,060
1834(*m*)	77,801	9,860	3,055	30,495	2,588	1,288	- -	486	5,925	116	496	29,301	17,725,731
1835(*n*)	71,017	8,840	3,455	26,433	1,820	747	- -	300	3,985	486	1,115	59,033	10,593,018
1836(*o*)	61,644	7,707	2,497	19,938	874	646	- -	182	5,224	69	227	46,779	13,446,053
1837	56,220	8,758	1,897	19,744	2,675	387	- -	176	8,372	101	324	48,440	9,950,679
1838	49,018	8,975	3,197½	23,786	820	802¾	- -	116	5,191	6	146 2 *trs.*	17,567	12,593,746
1839	42,219	5,962	1,589	15,479	700	212	- -	19	5,153	341	224	22,859	9,423,197
1840	30,466	3,645	1,356	11,155	487	297	- -	18	2,762	165	303	25,079	8,646,016
1841	30,560	4,430	2,296	10,949	539	331	- -	35	3,294	347	816	17,979	7,618,890

(*a*) August: Destruction of St. Domingo.
(*b*) Bourbon Cane introduced.
(*c*) Largest sugar crop.
(*d*) March 25: Abolition of African slave trade.
(*e*) Storm in October 1812.
(*f*) Largest coffee crop.
(*g*) Storm in October 1815.
(*h*) Extreme drought.
(*i*) Mr. Canning's Resolutions relative to Slavery.
(*k*) Severe drought in 1824, the previous year.
(*l*) Emancipation Act passed.
(*m*) Seasons favourable.
(*n*) Ditto.
(*o*) Ditto.

4446. Mr. *Hawes.*] How is the rum duty collected; is it upon the consumption; is it in the nature of an excise duty?—A return is required to be made on oath, by the proprietor or person in charge of every sugar estate, of the brandy, gin, rum, or other distilled spirits made thereon, with the disposal thereof; and a duty of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* is levied upon every gallon of brandy, gin, rum, &c. (Jamaica Act, 5 Vict. c. 30).

4447. The tea duty is distinguished from the duties on imports and exports?—The tea duty is upon the importation of tea.

4448. It is not included in the duties on imports and exports?—No; it is a separate item, under a different head.

W. Burge, Esq.

16 June 1842.

4449. Will you name the articles composing the imports and exports upon which the 120,000 *l.* a year is levied?—There are schedules annexed to the Acts imposing these duties, namely 5 Vict. c. 10, which lays a duty on goods, &c., not being the growth &c. of Great Britain or the British possessions; and the 5 Vict. c. 23, which lays a duty on imports and exports, and affects British goods. The schedules comprise almost every article.

4450. Can you furnish also the amount of the duties received under each head of the schedule?—The amounts which I have mentioned are found in the Return made by the Receiver-genéral of the island to the House of Assembly, printed by order of the Commissioners of Public Accounts.

4451. You stated that 20,000 *l.* a year is received from sugar and coffee consumed in the island?—That is the estimated revenue from sugar and coffee consumed in the island in 1841.

4452. How is it levied?—By an Act passed on 22d December 1840, 4 Vict. c. 40, and which was continued until the 31st December 1841, returns are to be made of coffee and sugar manufactured on properties.

4453. Does he return the quantity consumed upon his estate?—He returns the quantity manufactured and not exported.

4454. And upon that a certain rate of duty is laid?—Yes.

4455. What is the amount of duty?—The amount of duty is, upon sugar, 1 *d.* sterling on the pound, and 2 *d.* sterling on the pound on coffee.

4456. The return is made by the planter to some public officer?—Yes.

4457. Is there any check upon those returns?—The oath of the party.

4458. Does that Act apply to rum?—The duty on rum is imposed by another Act, 5 Vict. c. 30.

4459. Is the cattle and horse duty an import duty?—It is an import duty upon cattle imported, except from Great Britain and Ireland (5 Vict. c. 5, 6).

4460. Are there any laws for regulating contracts of hiring, for preventing combinations, for the recovery of lands held over, and for settling disputes which may arise between labourers and their employers?—There is the Master and Servants' Act, the 4th of Vict. c. 39, passed on the 22d of December 1840, which was, in fact, borrowed from the British statute of the 4th of Geo. 4, c. 34. Lord Stanley, in a despatch to Sir Charles Metcalfe, of the 27th of September 1841, expressed a wish that there should be an alteration made in it. His Lordship says this: "I am aware that in answer to some of the objections raised by my predecessor to this Act, you state, and state correctly, that in some of the points to which he objected the Act is borrowed from a British statute, 4 Geo. 4, c. 34; but you will not fail to perceive that this is a subject, of all others, in which it is desirable that the Legislature should have no possible ground for misconstruction; and that an enactment liable to no abuse, in a country where the relations between master and servant have been long established and are well understood, may require some modification when applied to a community where those relations have been so recently substituted for those of owner and slave. This observation applies especially to the duration of contracts. I have no suspicion on my own mind that the absence of any limit as to time was intended to act prejudicially towards the servant; but to avoid all cavil, I recommend that in the Act which it will be necessary to introduce, contracts for service should be limited to a year; or if entered into for a longer period, that a provision should be introduced giving an annual opportunity to either party to annul the contract on giving a month's notice." In consequence of this suggestion by Lord Stanley, the Act of the 5th of Vict. c. 43, was passed on the 14th of January of this present year, by which it is enacted, "that no contract for service shall be binding for any period exceeding 12 months." There is also an Act to restrain and punish combinations among masters or servants, the 3d of Vict. c. 30, which is founded upon the British statute the 6th of Geo. 4, c. 129. Then there is an Act to facilitate the recovery and possession of tenements, the 3d of Vict. c. 35, which is a transcript of the British statute of 1st & 2d Vict. c. 74. There is an Act for the apprenticeship of minors, which was altered in conformity with the suggestion of Lord Stanley, in the despatch to which I have referred. In that Act, although there was an implied right of appeal to the quarter sessions, presided over by a gentleman appointed under the Act for the improvement of the administration of justice, yet it was thought better to express the right of appeal in terms, and an alteration was accordingly made

in

in the Act. The original Act was passed on the 29th of December 1840, and that amendment, according to the suggestion of Lord Stanley, is to be found in the 5th of Vict. c. 35, passed on the 31st of December 1841. There is also a vagrant law, 3 Vict. c. 18, amended by the 4 Vict. c. 42, in conformity with the suggestion of the late Secretary for the Colonies. It is copied from the English law and an Order in Council. There is also an Act to facilitate the recovery of small debts, 3 Vict. c. 14, amended, on the representation of the late Secretary for the Colonies, by the 4 Vict. c. 28; it is number 3,312, and was passed on the 22d of November 1839.

4461. Are you of opinion that the Acts which you have now enumerated are sufficient for their respective purposes?—I am clearly of that opinion; and I rest not only upon my own opinion, but upon the deliberate judgment of Sir Charles Metcalfe, conveyed in his despatch to Lord Stanley of the 1st November 1841.

4462. Those laws which you have enumerated, more especially those relating to contracts for labour, are peculiar to Jamaica, and are not similar to laws in existence in other colonies for the same purpose?—No, I believe there is some difference between the laws of the other colonies and those in Jamaica.

4463. Will you state to the Committee whether any increased means of religious instruction have been afforded by the legislature of Jamaica, since the period of emancipation?—Yes, there has been a very considerable increase in the means of religious instruction afforded by the Jamaica legislature since that period.

4464. Will you state the nature of those means?—From a return made to the House of Commons from the Colonial-office in 1837, it appears that the average annual expense of the Church and School establishment of Jamaica, for five years, ending the 30th of September 1836, was 53,260 *l.* 14 *s.* 5 *d.* currency, or 31,956 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling. The increase to the ecclesiastical establishment which took place in 1839, consisted of 8,000 *l.* sterling by way of increase to the stipends of the rectors of the different parishes in the island, and 6,000 *l.* a year to the annual stipends of the curates, making an increase of 14,000 *l.* a year to the Church establishment alone; and I find that in the year 1839–40, the legislature granted, in aid of erecting additional places of worship for the Established Church, 11,000 *l.* To the Church Missionary Society they made a grant of 1,050 *l.*; to the diocesan school in Kingston, and to the Female School of Industry, which is for persons of colour, 1,250 *l.*; to the Roman-catholic establishment, 500 *l.*; and to the Wesleyan chapels, 1,200 *l.*; making a total of 15,000 *l.* currency, or 9,000 *l.* sterling, in addition to the ordinary annual church and school expenditure which I have just mentioned.

4465. Mr. *Hawes.*] Of the 53,260 *l.* 14 *s.* 5 *d.* currency, or 31,956 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling, for the churches and schools, can you state what proportion is paid to the Church establishment, and what proportion to the schools?—Yes; the table I will put in will show, for instance, the total amount of the Church establishment to be 217,413 *l.* 15 *s.* 6½ *d.*, and the total amount of the schools 48,898 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.*, making a grand total of 266,304 *l.* 6 *s.* 6 *d.*; but there is no statement of the average annual expense of the school establishment as distinct from that of the Church establishment.

[*The Return was delivered in, as follows:*]

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION (JAMAICA).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 11 May 1837;—*for,*

COPY of an ABSTRACT of RETURNS made by the RECEIVER-GENERAL and CLERKS of VESTRIES of the several Parishes of *Jamaica*, to the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY of the Island, on the 22d February, in pursuance of an Order of that House, dated the 9th November 1836; showing the Amount raised in the Island, and applied by the Assembly, and the Parochial Vestries for the CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT, and for the support of SCHOOLS and EDUCATION in *Jamaica*, for Five Years ending the 30th September 1836; and also any Information or Extracts from any Despatches, showing any Grants subsequently made for either of those purposes.

Colonial Office, Downing-street, 26 May 1837.

G. GREY.

ABSTRACT of RETURNS made by the RECEIVER-GENERAL and CLERKS of VESTRIES of the several Parishes, as required by an Order of the House of Assembly, dated the 9th November 1836; showing the Amount of the CHURCH and SCHOOL EXPENDITURE for Five Years ending 30th September 1836.

CHURCH EXPENDITURE.

PARISHES.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	Total Amount Church Establishment.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
St. Catherine	865 19 2	881 15 –	1,595 16 8	1,380 17 6	1,474 16 8	6,199 5 –
Port Royal	625 15 7½	648 18 9	558 3 9	405 16 8	338 – –	2,576 14 9½
Kingston	1,406 – 10	1,617 17 11	1,275 8 4	1,564 4 2	2,761 8 4	8,624 19 7
St. Andrew	843 6 8	854 19 5	682 2 –	782 8 5	645 5 5	3,808 1 11
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	608 10 7	826 3 8	740 18 11	700 – –	750 – –	3,625 13 2
St. Dorothy	235 1 8	383 14 2	186 16 8	256 16 8	1,734 19 3	2,797 8 5
St. John	140 – –	234 13 4	295 – –	128 – –	628 – –	1,431 13 4
Clarendon	887 16 8	671 13 4	636 13 4	719 4 3	668 7 6	3,583 15 1
Vere	224 5 –	206 – –	208 10 –	206 – –	392 16 8	1,237 11 8
St. Elizabeth	326 11 8	477 5 –	448 9 2	308 6 8	4,322 8 4	5,883 – 10
Westmoreland	3,271 – –	854 – –	753 – –	800 – –	2,693 11 6	8,371 11 6
Hanover	522 7 6	1,825 18 10	926 18 7	1,145 5 5	2,041 7 –	6,461 17 4
St. James	390 – –	1,438 11 11	1,163 15 –	569 5 –	5,120 3 9	8,681 15 8
Trelawny	979 2 5	1,818 12 3	1,114 – –	761 2 1	749 15 8	5,422 12 5
St. Ann	994 4 6	984 10 –	856 2 4½	671 1 8	3,495 15 4½	7,001 13 11
St. Mary	717 15 –	1,647 5 –	555 17 6	1,240 15 –	2,642 13 11½	6,804 6 5½
St. George	2,333 6 1	916 6 8	1,692 8 4½	217 11 10	540 7 1	5,700 10 –½
Portland	250 7 6	204 6 8	301 10 5	607 13 4	344 18 4	1,708 16 3
St. Thomas-in-the-East	1,890 10 –	904 10 –	485 16 –	1,268 11 –	847 18 3	5,397 5 3
St. David's	388 6 8	416 11 8	224 11 4	233 11 8	264 8 4	1,527 9 8
Manchester	133 3 4	147 8 4	659 15 –	164 8 4	119 – –	1,223 15 –
Paid by the Receiver-General	23,888 13 5	20,037 4 6	24,647 11 1	23,485 12 1	27,283 17 2	119,342 18 3
£.	41,928 4 3	37,998 6 5	40,009 4 6	37,616 11 9	59,859 18 7	217,413 15 6½

SCHOOL EXPENDITURE.

PARISHES.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	Total Amount of School Establishment.	GRAND TOTAL of Church and School Establishment.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
St. Catherine	21 – –	21 – –	21 – –	21 – –	631 – –	715 – –	6,914 5 –
Port Royal	– – –	39 15 –	132 10 –	102 8 9	95 – –	369 13 9	2,946 8 6⅓
Kingston	– – –	100 – –	– – –	200 – –	500 – –	800 – –	9,424 19 7
St. Andrew	257 18 3	339 6 3	245 5 –	220 8 10	315 – –	1,377 18 4	5,186 – 3
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	– – –	– – –	61 13 4	50 – –	180 – –	291 13 4	3,917 6 6
St. Dorothy	63 3 4	50 – –	50 – –	55 – –	25 – –	243 3 4	3,040 11 9
St. John	37 10 –	100 – –	120 2 6	111 10 –	100 – –	469 2 6	1,900 15 10
Clarendon	60 – –	60 – –	60 – –	60 – –	60 – –	300 – –	3,883 15 1
Vere	– – –	– – –	– – –	30 – –	50 – –	80 – –	1,317 11 8
St. Elizabeth	45 – –	50 – –	50 – –	50 – –	54 – –	249 – –	6,132 – 10
Westmoreland	45 – –	50 – –	50 – –	50 – –	155 – –	350 – –	8,721 11 6
Hanover	405 10 –	422 – –	375 – –	335 – –	380 – –	1,917 – –	8,378 17 4
St. James	900 – –	900 – –	900 – –	900 – –	900 – –	4,500 – –	13,181 15 8
Trelawny	481 18 4	453 10 5	431 15 10	978 16 8	327 18 4	2,673 9 7	8,096 2 –
St. Ann	209 16 11½	107 13 4	137 13 4	113 15 –	129 10 10	698 9 5½	7,700 3 4½
St. Mary	103 15 –	104 10 –	85 – –	85 – –	85 – –	463 5 –	7,267 11 5½
St. George	266 3 4	320 14 4½	283 13 7	227 9 4½	194 10 2½	1,292 10 10½	6,993 10 10½
Portland	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	1,708 16 3
St. Thomas-in-the-East	1,017 – –	765 17 6	650 – –	662 4 4	971 10 –	4,066 11 10	9,463 17 1
St. David's	80 – –	80 – –	50 – –	50 – –	32 10 –	292 10 –	1,819 19 8
Manchester	– – –	– – –	200 – –	– – –	– – –	200 – –	1,423 15 –
Paid by the Receiver-General	5,040 11 4	5,631 11 –	5,888 7 10	5,474 4 8	5,506 18 3	27,541 13 1	146,884 11 3
£.	9,034 6 6½	9,595 17 10½	9,592 1 5	9,776 17 7½	10,692 17 7½	48,891 1 1	266,304 6 6

AVERAGE Annual Expense of Church and School Establishment for Five Years - - £. 53,260 14 5

4466. Are those sums in currency, or in sterling money?—In currency. That sum of 53,260*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* currency, is 31,956*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* sterling money.

4467. Can you state whether any and what improvements have been made of late in the administration of justice?—Yes; there has been a very extensive improvement in the judicial establishment of Jamaica; a general description of it is given by Sir Charles Metcalfe, in his despatch to Lord Stanley of the 1st of November 1841: "The reform of the judicial establishment was considered by Her Majesty's Government as an object of essential importance, and was likewise desired by the local legislature. That measure has been carried into operation with every assurance of success, at a considerable cost to the island." Previously to the passing of the measure to which Sir Charles Metcalfe here alludes, although the Chief Justice of the island was a professional man, called to the English bar, yet the two associate judges were not necessarily professional men. This measure provides that the two associate judges should be professional men, of a certain standing at the bar. It was also considered very desirable that the governor of the island should be divested of the functions of chancellor and ordinary, heretofore exercised by him, and that they should be delegated to a vice-chancellor, who was to be a barrister of a certain standing. There are certain functions which the Chancellor of Jamaica has to discharge himself, which in England are discharged by the Master. In respect of those functions, and indeed generally, from his judicial character, he may be placed in collision with persons of influence in the legislature; it is desirable, therefore, to relieve him from this embarrassment; and, in addition to this advantage, the community derived the benefit of having the duties of chancellor and ordinary performed by a professional person. Another part of this measure was the appointment of a vice-chancellor. A further improvement of the judicial system was effected by providing for the appointment of nine gentlemen of the legal profession to be presiding chairmen of the courts of quarter sessions. These appointments have been filled, with the exception of one gentleman, entirely from the English bar. The courts of subordinate jurisdiction, and the principal subjects of difference amongst the emancipated population themselves, and between labourers and employers, are thus made subject to the presiding superintendence of professional men. The effect of this reformation has been, as the Committee will find in the despatches of Lord John Russell and Lord Stanley, perfectly satisfactory to the Government, and has placed the administration of justice in a perfectly unexceptionable state.

4468. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the date of the appointment?—The Act passed in April 1840, 3 Vict. c. 65, and an Act in aid, in December 1840, 4 Vict. c. 50, and the appointments were made almost immediately afterwards, with the exception of the office of vice-chancellor. The expense of that increase to the establishment is, of course, very considerable; that increase of expense, together with the additional salary to the governor, amounts to 50,000 *l.* a year currency, or 30,000 *l.* sterling.

4469. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that, after the grants which you have now enumerated, the means of education and religious instruction are abundantly sufficient for the population in the island of Jamaica?—I think so. Unfortunately the Mico fund has been withdrawn, which was one aid to the colony. The means which Jamaica has afforded for religious instruction, and for the establishment of schools, are certainly beyond its ability with reference to the present distressed state of the colony; it could not possibly extend them.

4470. Mr. *Hawes.*] The answer you have given has reference to public establishments alone?—To public establishments, exclusive of much which is given by parishes, by private individuals in the colony, and by religious societies in this country.

4471. Your answer comprehends not only what is done out of the public purse in the island, but what is done by the parochial vestries?—My answer has hitherto related exclusively to what has been given out of the public purse in Jamaica, in addition to some grants made by this country,—grant made by the House of Commons, the Mico Charity, the religious societies in this country. My impression is, that the funds which have been advanced by the legislature of Jamaica, by the parochial vestries there, by private individuals, by societies, are sufficient.

4472. *Chairman.*] Do you desire to give any further statement with reference to the annual expenditure of the island before and since the abolition of slavery?

W. Burge, Esq.

16 June 1842.

—I now tender to the Committee " A Statement of the Annual Military, Civil, and Ecclesiastical Expenditure, and of the Annual Expenses of Public Institutions and General Defence of the Island, for the Seven Years preceding and the Seven Years which followed the year of the Abolition of Slavery." It is defrayed by the public of Jamaica, without any contribution from the Government of this country. I have put those sums all in sterling. The explanation which I wish to give of the very large expenditure in 1832, amounting to 314,241 *l.* 8 *s.* 2 *d.*, is this: out of this sum 106,015 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.* was an expenditure occasioned by the insurrection in Jamaica in 1831, and the martial law consequent upon it. I should also mention, that in the year 1833 the Government of this country relieved Jamaica from a burthen which the island had taken upon itself, of paying for a certain number of troops; the items therefore which follow 1832 would be supposed to show a diminution of expenditure in consequence of this charge being no longer defrayed by the island; but, in fact, from the year 1834, the abolition of slavery, down to the present period, there is a continued increase of the expenditure, till at last, in 1841, the expenditure amounted to 291,415 *l.* 16 *s.* This increase of the expenditure is principally caused by the improvement of the judicial system, the governor's extra salary, the extra allowances to the clergy, and the extra allowances to curates, the advances made for the permanent police establishment consequent upon the abolition of slavery, the erection of townships, and the carrying on of immigration. This statement I will deliver in.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

JAMAICA.

A STATEMENT of the Annual Military, Civil, and Ecclesiastical Expenditure, and of the Annual Expenses of Public Institutions and General Defence of the Island, for the Seven Years preceding and the Seven Years which followed the Year of the Abolition of Slavery.

Year.	Military Establishment.			Civil Establishment.			Ecclesiastical Establishment.			Public Institutions.			General Defence.			Rewards and Special Grants.			Total Currency.			Total Sterling.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1827	114,260	11	4	82,022	5	8	21,319	5	5	4,842	15	1	26,735	17	5	4,589	16	8	254,370	11	7	152,622	6	11½
1828	106,549	2	3	102,835	12	1	21,745	13	9	5,336	12	11	27,048	4	3	10,415	6	8	272,930	11	11	163,758	7	2
1829	54,415	6	2	60,732	14	7	19,793	14	8	808	16	–	19,037	17	5	5,638	6	8	160,426	15	6	96,256	1	4
1830	27,136	2	11	111,360	5	–	21,797	11	11	14,831	6	2	20,363	1	2	11,439	10	–	206,927	17	2	124,156	14	4
1831	68,278	2	1	81,655	16	2	20,914	–	11	13,348	13	6	34,083	18	4	10,074	13	9	228,355	4	9	137,013	2	10½
1832	184,143	3	8	85,078	12	7	21,688	–	1	7,287	5	9	222,729	7	1*	2,809	4	4	523,735	13	6	314,241	8	2
1833	15,718	3	4	66,218	9	7	19,285	11	1	3,186	9	4	17,013	3	6	1,101	10	–	122,523	6	10	73,514	–	1½
1834	34,083	9	6	107,322	2	3	22,741	14	5	16,776	19	11	61,475	14	9†	7,695	10	6	250,095	11	4	150,057	6	10
1835	30,830	6	7	78,255	17	10	21,983	18	9	8,723	13	2	74,985	1	1‡	31,972	9	6§	246,751	7	11	140,050	16	9
1836	30,457	11	4	81,170	14	1	21,907	3	10	8,508	3	6‖	72,108	17	3	24,808	3	11	238,960	13	11	143,376	8	4½
1837	27,468	–	–	120,174	–	10	20,954	15	9	9,807	7	1	58,535	8	2	20,374	19	4	257,314	11	2	154,388	14	8½
1838	25,709	1	10	95,218	8	6	23,189	16	3	7,287	12	11	52,804	11	10	17,467	1	6	221,676	12	10	133,005	19	8½
1839	5,262	5	8	82,125	4	3	20,574	8	4	5,735	10	9	27,052	14	11	13,004	15	2	153,754	19	1	92,252	19	5½
1840	40,397	12	3	148,056	8	9¶	29,637	18	10	15,447	17	4	64,254	11	9	51,751	17	2	349,546	6	1	209,727	15	8
1841**	15,400	–	–	145,461	–	–	28,060	16	–	6,594	–	–	41,000	–	–	55,000	–	–	–	–	–	291,415	16	–

In 1839 the amount of the increase of the previous annual expenditure was 148,000 *l.* currency, or 88,800 *l.* sterling, and was composed of the following items:

	£.
Immigration	84,000
Judicial system and Governor's extra	50,000
Clergy, extra	8,000
Curates, extra	6,000
£.	148,000

* Of this sum, 106,015 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.* sterling, caused by martial law in 1832.
† Permanent police, 8,400 *l.* sterling.
‡ Permanent police, 34,800 *l.* sterling.
§ Increase in consequence of Townships: Loans to parishes for houses of correction, 5,757 *l.* 12 *s.* sterling; establishment of township, Cornwall, 2,002 *l.* 4 *s.* sterling.
‖ Public hospital, 3,600 *l.* sterling.
¶ Immigration Act, 6,000 *l.* sterling.
** The different sums in this line are in sterling money.

4473. Will that Return afford to the Committee a complete statement of the comparative expenditure of the colony before and since slavery?—So far as relates to the public expenditure of the island as distinguished from the parochial expenditure. But, in addition to the public expenditure, the parochial annual expenditure, according to the official Return which I now tender, amounts to 150,357 *l.* 16 *s.* 8½ *d.* sterling.

NAME of PARISH.	Number of Establishments.	CHURCH PURPOSES. Rectors.	Curates.	Parish Clerks and Chapel Clerks.	Organist and Organ Regulator.	Sextons, Beadles, and Assistant Beadles.	Contingent Expenses.	Building, Repairs, Purchases, and Grants.	Tor.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£.
Kingston	3	216 – –	– – –	219 – –	234 – –	237 – –	1,507 – 8	1,011 10 –	3,424
St. Andrew	3	150 – –	100 – –	165 – –	60 – –	99 4 –	– – –	1,000 – –	1,574
Port Royal	2	60 – –	– – –	62 – –	36 – –	60 – –	186 – –	– – –	404
St. Ann	4	30 – –	150 – –	87 8 –	– – –	27 – –	24 – –	1,740 16 –	2,059
St. David	2	138 – –	30 – –	45 – –	– – –	12 – –	100 – –	– – –	325
St. Thomas-in-the-East	5	153 – –	150 – –	117 – –	36 – –	80 – –	120 – –	600 – –	1,256
Portland	3	84 – –	– – –	45 6 8	– – –	39 1 8	104 2 9	200 – –	472
St. George	4	180 – –	– – –	31 10 –	– – –	26 – –	50 7 –	1,030 – –	1,287
St. Mary	4	76 10 –	– – –	150 – –	52 – –	30 16 –	80 – –	1,840 13 1	2,229
St. Catherine	3	126 – –	– – –	85 4 –	120 – –	115 10 –	34 4 –	429 – –	909
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	3	270 – –	96 – –	90 – –	60 – –	30 – –	174 14 8	1,828 – –	2,548
St. John	2	48 – –	– – –	60 – –	– – –	17 4 –	– – –	1,106 8 –	1,231
St. Dorothy	2	90 – –	60 – –	80 – –	– – –	20 – –	20 16 6	– – –	270
Clarendon	3	210 – –	60 – –	102 – –	6 8 –	68 – –	– – –	3,700 – –	4,146
Vere	2	162 – –	– – –	44 – –	– – –	24 – –	1,000 – –	– – –	1,230
Manchester	4	78 – –	– – –	69 – –	– – –	12 – –	120 10 6	– – –	279
St. Elizabeth	5	30 – –	– – –	120 – –	84 – –	26 – –	– – –	900 – –	1,160
Trelawny	5	138 – –	– – –	252 – –	276 – –	144 – –	– – –	1,950 – –	2,760
Westmoreland	6	126 – –	450 – –	140 – –	96 – –	69 – –	– – –	845 – –	1,726
St. James	3	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	1,312
Hanover	4	90 – –	– – –	42 – –	33 12 –	42 12 –	– – –	90 – –	298
	£.	2,455 10 –	1,096 – –	2,006 8 8	1,094 – –	1,179 7 8	3,521 16 1	18,241 7 1	30,906

NAME of PARISH.	Number of Establishments.	PAROCHIAL OFFICERS—*continued.* Inspectors of Public Buildings.	Keepers of Public Buildings.	Matrons of Gaols and Poor-houses.	Parish Solicitor.	Head Constable and Police Officer.	Clerk to Fire-wardens.	Purveyor to Hospital.	Almoner.	Deputy Marshal.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Kingston	3	– – –	– – –	50 – –	– – –	315 – –	24 – –	186 – –	– – –	– – –
St. Andrew	3	– – –	– – –	30 – –	– – –	30 – –	– – –	– – –	12 – –	– – –
Port Royal	2	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. Ann	4	– – –	– – –	12 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	60 – –
St. David	2	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St Thomas-in-the-East	5	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Portland	3	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. George	4	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. Mary	4	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. Catherine	3	– – –	– – –	70 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	24 – –
St. Thomas-in-the-Vale	3	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. John	2	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. Dorothy	2	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Clarendon	3	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Vere	2	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Manchester	4	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	120 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	60 – –
St. Elizabeth	5	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Trelawny	5	– – –	– – –	– – –	36 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Westmoreland	6	60 – –	78 – –	33 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
St. James	3	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
Hanover	4	60 – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –
	£.	120 – –	78 – –	195 – –	36 – –	465 – –	24 – –	186 – –	12 – –	144 – –

These Tables are composed from Returns made by the clerks of the vestries of the several parishes in this Island, and the clerk of the common c
wished, but in future (the object of them being better understood) it is to be expected that more perfect and complete information will be f

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4474. What do you consider to be the principal cause of the present agricultural distress to which you have referred, and what remedy would you suggest for that distress?—I consider, and so do my constituents, that the principal, and indeed the only cause of that distress, is the inadequate supply of labour. The inadequacy consists in the number of the population engaged in agricultural labour being less than that engaged in labour during slavery, and in the insufficiency of the work performed by this diminished number of the labouring population in return for the wages paid them. So that in fact the inadequacy consists, according to the information I have received, partly in the reduction of the number of labourers, and partly in the diminished quantity of work done by the reduced number of labourers. The remedy, and the only remedy, is an increase of the labouring population, for the purpose of continuing the cultivation of the colony. I am very anxious to impress upon the minds of the Committee, and that the Committee should be aware, that the cause of the distress, the evil complained of, is the inadequate supply of labour, and that the only remedy for that evil is an increase of the labouring population by immigration. A revision of the laws which regulate the relations between labourer and employer, and their mutual obligations to each other, with a view of enforcing a more strict and adequate return of labour for the wages which are paid, would not afford any remedy; but the very attempt to undertake it, would increase the evil, and be productive of irreparable mischief to the colony. I can conceive it possible that, looking at the laws which were passed for the purpose of regulating those relations and obligations, persons may doubt the soundness of the principle, that a law, perfectly good in England, and adopted there, to settle the relations and enforce the obligations of labourer and employer, was too strict towards the labourer, and not strict enough against the employer. But I am quite certain, if it were attempted to abandon that principle, and adopt a system of laws more strict towards the labouring population, the effect of such an attempt would be great mischief in the colony, by producing conflict and collision between the Home Government and the legislature of the colony. There would be great difficulty in defining and agreeing on the precise limit between what is strictly and indispensably necessary to secure the continuous and efficient performance of that labour which the labourer had undertaken to give you for his wages, and what was not strictly and indispensably necessary, and which would, therefore, be oppressive and unjust. It would inevitably cause a collision between the Government here and the Legislative Assembly in Jamaica, upon the application of that principle. The anti-slavery party (of whom no one complains, when, in their desire to protect the emancipated population, they are acting *bonâ fide* and fairly), would question the principle on which the colonial legislature proceeded, and assert they were exceeding the proper limit. Judging from past experience, the Government here would be too likely to yield to the influence of that body. The labouring population would see the Home Government and the colonial legislature engaged in a collision, having for its avowed and proclaimed object, on the part of the Home Government, the immediate and direct protection of the emancipated population. They are told that the legislature in the colony desires to pass oppressive laws, and that the interposition of the Government is to protect them from those oppressive laws. They are at once imbued with feelings of distrust, and jealousy, and dissatisfaction towards those to whom they look up for, and from whom they must receive, employment. The colony would be plunged into that wretched disorganized state to which it had been reduced at the time Sir Charles Metcalfe accepted the government. From that state his wise, and just, and liberal, and conciliatory administration, recovered the colony, reconciled her with the mother country, caused the previously unsatisfactory feeling of the labouring population towards their employers to subside, and restored order and harmony amongst all classes. The evil is not to be found in the administration of justice, for it has been made perfectly satisfactory to all classes in the colony and to the Government. No remedy could, therefore, be derived from any alteration of the present judicial system of Jamaica. Neither is the evil to be found, nor the remedy to be derived, from any alteration of the laws. "Many laws have been passed," says Sir C. Metcalfe, in his despatch of the 1st November 1841, "to meet the change that has occurred in the social relations of the inhabitants of the colony, and to approximate the statutes of this country to those of England. Although the business of legislation must ever be one of incessant advancement, I am not aware

aware of any peculiar matter, immediately pressing, that remains to be undertaken." No remedy is to be found in a revision of these; and it would do great mischief by the discontent, and dissatisfaction, and distrust which it would create. Immigration, and immigration upon an extensive scale, is essential, and it is the only remedy for the evil under which Jamaica labours, and the only means of relieving the agricultural distress under which she is suffering. The immigration ought to be of persons accustomed to a tropical climate; because, although, as is stated by Sir Charles Metcalfe, in one of his despatches, it may be possible to locate Europeans in the higher parts of Jamaica, yet there is a natural disposition on their part, as soon as they are landed, to go into the neighbourhood of towns, where they indulge in the use of spirituous liquors, and encounter a climate not suitable to them. But, in the opinion of that distinguished person, it is indispensable for the relief of Jamaica that immigration from Africa or from some tropical climate should take place upon a very extensive scale. The immigration ought to be undertaken, not by individuals, but by the Government. One great objection to individuals engaging in it is, that you have no security that fair and just representations may be made of the actual condition of the country to which they are invited, and of the situation in which they would be placed, and of the advantages they may possess. Again, it is impossible to suppose that individuals could unite together for the purpose of raising the necessary funds to defray the expenses of immigration. The whole scheme of immigration should be committed to and undertaken by the Government, commencing from the period when the emigrant consents to emigrate, and continued until he has arrived and been suitably located in the colony. There would thus be adequate security that there was perfect freedom in the immigration and perfect protection of the immigrant. The Jamaica legislature passed an Act for the purpose of promoting immigration, and they established certain officers, to be appointed by the executive. One object of their appointment was to protect the emigrant from being imposed on by erroneous or exaggerated representations, to secure his perfect freedom in emigrating, and his protection and comfort on his arrival. The Act was passed in April 1840, 3 Vict. c. 63. It was amended, on the suggestion of the Government, by another Act passed in December 1840, 4 Vict. c. 23, and by the 5 Vict. c. 53.

4475. Do you feel no apprehension that in trusting to immigration as the sole remedy for the existing distress of Jamaica, you are depending upon a remedy which is impracticable?—I have never believed that it was impracticable to effect immigration; on the contrary, I have always felt that it was the bounden duty of the Government of this country to assist the colonies in carrying on immigration upon such a scale as should supply what is confessedly wanting in the present state of the labouring population, namely, adequate means for continuing the cultivation of the colony.

4476. By the word "impracticable" in the last question, was meant impracticable to an adequate extent; are you aware that persons connected with the island of Jamaica have expressed the opinion, that in that one island alone, in order to keep up the present extent of cultivation, no less than 50,000 additional labourers would be required?—I was not aware of that precise number having been mentioned.

4477. You are probably aware, when you are advocating this as the sole remedy for the distress in Jamaica, that the same necessity has also been urged on the part of many other West India colonies?—Yes.

4478. Then do you feel no apprehension, in looking at the demand for additional labourers to this enormous extent in almost all the West India colonies, that it may be found impracticable to supply that labour to the necessary amount?—I do not see any impossibility of obtaining the number required by each of the colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, from the coast of Africa. It depends very much upon the views with which the immigration is sanctioned or permitted on the part of the Government. But I do not perceive the difficulty of obtaining an adequate number of emigrants from the coast of Africa, for the purpose of abundantly satisfying the claims which either of those colonies may have.

4479. Have you practically directed your attention to the quarters from which immigration to this enormous extent is likely to proceed?—The coast of Africa is the quarter to which I look.

4480. Have you any means of judging what extent of labour is likely to be

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derived from the coast of Africa?—The conversations I have had with persons acquainted with the coast of Africa, have led me to conclude that there is an abundant population there. But there is this difficulty started, that no emigrants should be obtained from any part of the coast of Africa where slavery exists. The term slavery is applied by some persons to what is in truth rather a species of patriarchal authority exercised by the head of a clan or tribe. I have heard the evidence given upon this subject before the Committee on the West Coast of Africa. In many parts of Africa the relation between the people and the chief of their tribe is a species of feudal vassalage; the people are under an obligation not to leave the country without the authority of the chief, but they are not in a state of slavery in the sense in which we understand slavery. With reference to a question that was put to me, as to some person having stated that 50,000 immigrants would be required for Jamaica, I do not suppose that any one intended that 50,000 were to be brought in at once, or that there should be annual immigration to such an extent; I consider, that although there might be difficulty in procuring for Jamaica a number as great as 50,000, yet very sensible and immediate benefit would be derived to the colony from a number much less than 50,000. My own individual opinion is, that a much less extensive supply would be sufficient; and it is to a less extensive supply that the attention and wishes of the colony of Jamaica must be considered as directed. Immigration is strongly urged by Sir Charles Metcalfe, as requisite for the adequate cultivation of the colony, and he observes that it is a happy reflection that immigration may take place to any probable extent without interfering with the benefits possessed by the present inhabitants.

4481. Have you formed any opinion as to the amount of immigration that would be indispensably necessary?—I should say that an immigration from Africa of from 15,000 to 20,000 labourers is required for the single colony of Jamaica.

4482. When you mention that number, you mean, of course, available labourers?—Yes, available labourers; and the immigration must be continued for a certain time, because any addition to the present population by natural increase would not for some time be sufficient to supply the present inadequacy of the number of the labouring population. After immigration had been continued for a few years, the increase of the population by natural causes would be sensibly felt, and the colony would be in a condition to carry on her agricultural labour with a less number of immigrants.

4483. Your last answer is to the effect, that taking 15,000 or 20,000 as the requisite number, you would spread the introduction of that number over a period of years?—I would say the number of 15,000 or 20,000 introduced into the colony, not at once, but spread over a few years.

4484. Mr. *Hawes.*] With reference to the laws you have spoken of, regarding contracts between master and servant, and the other laws of which you spoke subsequently, are they perfectly satisfactory to the authorities of the colony?—Perfectly so.

4485. And they are carrying them into operation cordially?—Quite cordially.

4486. Were you rightly understood to say, that the whole scheme of immigration should be placed in the hands of the Government, and that your ground for saying so was, that it was the only means of giving security for the proper treatment of the parties introduced into the colony?—That was one, but not the sole reason for placing it in the hands of the Government; there are other strong reasons to recommend that course; for instance, if the Government undertook immigration, no encouragement would be given to so mischievous a scheme as that of endeavouring to withdraw from the smaller colonies their labouring population, and exciting strong feelings of dissatisfaction and distrust among them by representing the possibility of their getting higher wages in another colony. I would leave the labourer a perfectly free agent, in whatever colony he is; but I am sure if immigration into the colony had been in the hands of the Government, no scheme would have been resorted to for the purpose of withdrawing the labouring population from Barbadoes and Antigua, or any of our other colonies. The fact that the Government was not contemplating the removal of those persons from any one colony to another, would at once have suggested to the labouring population to pay no attention to the representations of individuals enticing them from their own to another colony. But independently of that, I do not see how immigration could be carried on by a voluntary combination

bination of individuals; there would be great difficulty in interposing the suitable provision as to the mode of locating the immigrants after they arrived in the colony. If it be a Government measure, arrangements similar to those of the Jamaica Immigration Act may be adopted for placing them in situations best adapted to their health, and in situations where they are most required; and there would be secured a fair, equal distribution of immigrants among different parties standing most in need of the supply of labour.

4487. Have you, or have the authorities in the island of Jamaica, at all turned their attention to any mode of obtaining labourers upon the coast of Africa?—At Sierra Leone Mr. Barclay, the commissioner appointed by the Act of the island, with the sanction of the Government, put himself in communication with the authorities, and some emigrants were obtained from thence, but to a very limited extent.

4488. The question rather refers directly to the coast of Africa; have you, or have the authorities in Jamaica, turned their attention to the mode of getting labourers directly from the African chiefs?—I do not know that in Jamaica the subject has been gone into much in detail; but my view is, that there should be erected on the coast of Africa some forts or some places where the Government should have its own officer; that he should be a party to every removal which took place from the coast of Africa to any colony; that there should be every possible security against any improper means being resorted to for the purpose of withdrawing any person from the coast of Africa to the colony against his or her will; and all such precautions should be taken on the part of the Government, and such means resorted to, as would effectually afford that security.

4489. What is the object of erecting forts?—I used the expression "fort" to designate some establishment which would be known on the coast as the official residence of a Government officer; some person who should be made privy to every emigration that took place from the coast of Africa. In short, his license or passport should be essential for the departure of any African from the coast.

4490. You contemplated only a perfectly voluntary emigration?—A perfectly voluntary emigration.

4491. No money consideration at all?—No money consideration at all.

4492. None passing at all between the authorities of the British Government and the parties in the interior of Africa?—If the Government could enter into a treaty with any of the African chiefs, by which they could put an end to their wars, and to all those outrages which have for their object to take prisoners, and make them slaves, and could place the inhabitants of Africa in a situation to be perfectly free agents, I should consider a sum of money paid by the Government to the chief, for the purpose of effecting this, well laid out.

4493. Have you at all turned your attention, or have the authorities in Jamaica turned their attention, to any mode of distributing the labourers upon their arrival?—Yes; the Immigration Act of Jamaica made various provisions for the purpose of distributing the immigrants, and taking care that they are placed in healthy situations. There is a public officer in each port where they arrive, who has the charge of them, immediately under the eye of the Governor, and who places them in suitable situations. Applications are made to his office, and if he approves of the healthiness of the situation, and is satisfied that there are adequate houses built, and grounds provided for them, he places the immigrants with the applicant.

4494. Is it in his hands solely to distribute the young or the old, the strong or weak, as the case may be, or how is that regulated?—It is in his power, subject to the inspection and control of the Government.

4495. And you would leave it entirely in his control?—I would leave it entirely under the control of some public officer appointed by Government, holding his office during pleasure, and every security taken that, by report or otherwise, the Government is acquainted with every transaction connected with immigration which takes place.

4496. Do you contemplate, also, a female immigration, in proportion to the male immigration?—Certainly.

4497. And of course a distribution of the female immigrants over the estates in proportion to the males?—Certainly.

4498. Do you contemplate the immigration of children also, of whole families?—Unquestionably, children with their parents. My notion, and the feeling of the people of Jamaica, is, that immigrants who come from Africa should,

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on their arrival in Jamaica, be, to all intents and purposes, British subjects, and have the rights and privileges of freemen to the same extent as any other inhabitant of the colony.

4499. When you state that the amount of effective labour is very much reduced, you state that only upon the information of other parties?—From information that I have received. My situation as agent for the island puts me in correspondence not only with the two branches of the legislature composing the Committee of Correspondence, but with private individuals. The fair result of all the information I have received induces me to believe, that of the labouring population, of whose services the agriculturists in Jamaica could have availed themselves in slavery, the number now engaged in agricultural labour is at least one-third less, and those actually at work give a third less of labour; so that in truth, there is at least, to the extent of two-thirds, a diminution of the labour which was obtained in slavery; the consequence has been a ruinous loss, the wages paid so greatly exceeding the value of the work done for those wages.

4500. Then you distinctly state that the amount of effective work in the island of Jamaica has diminished two-thirds since the passing of the Act of Emancipation?—In the way I have stated, generally, it has.

4501. Mr. *C. Howard.*] The introduction of immigrants, and building houses, and supplying them with religious instruction, and other measures consequent upon their arrival, would, of course, lead to great expense on the part of the colony?—It would lead to considerable expense.

4502. In consequence of that expense the price of sugar would not for some time be reduced?—The effect of carrying on cultivation at a more moderate rate of wages, and of obtaining the value of the wages paid there at present, would enable us to defray, to a certain extent, the expenses which immigration would occasion.

4503. But you do not look to any immediate reduction in the expense of cultivation, in consequence of the great expense attending immigration?—I think the reduction in the expense of cultivation would exceed in many instances the share of the increased public burthen caused by immigration.

4504. If the price of sugar should cease to be remunerative, would not a great influx of immigrants into Jamaica be bad for the colony, and for those who were introduced into it?—I do not think so.

4505. Mr. *Villiers Stuart.*] How would you propose to pay the expenses of the immigration; by a tax upon the colony?—Of course that would form an item of the expenditure of the colony, to be defrayed in the same manner as the other expenses of the colony.

4506. Supposing the immigration was in the hands of the Government, what is your plan for defraying the expenses of the immigration?—If the Government did not feel, as I hope they would feel, that in the present distressed state of the colony there ought to be some contribution made from hence towards a measure necessary for the purpose of carrying out emancipation, for the purpose of preventing emancipation being not only a loss to this country, but a complete obstacle to the extinction of slavery in other parts of the world; supposing, I say, Government should not do that, there must be some arrangement made by which the colonies should raise a definite sum for the purpose of paying a proportion of the expense. I do not think there would be any difficulty about that. As to the expense of immigration, I think the Government could carry it on much more beneficially in every respect than it could be carried on by individuals on their private account, or by any establishments which might be formed by companies. I have a great objection to companies engaging in immigration, and a still greater objection to individuals engaging in it: the public ought to do it; and the Government of this country undertaking it, might carry it on at a much less expense than private individuals.

4507. In that case it would be a general tax upon the estates?—Such an addition to the annual taxation would be made as would be required, but to what particular sources of that taxation resort would be had, would depend on a great variety of circumstances.

4508. You would leave, then, to the immigrants the choice of what estates they would afterwards work upon?—Clearly; I mean them to be perfectly free agents.

4509. Would there not be some difficulty in regard to that? Supposing it were a general

a general tax upon every estate, and the negroes should prefer particular localities, how would you adjust that?—My opinion is, that the whole island is equally interested in supplying the inadequate state of labour, because if unfortunately, by a refusal to afford an increase of labour, there are estates thrown up, and the cultivation is abandoned, that is not only an evil to the proprietors of those estates so abandoned, but it is an evil to the whole island, for you reduce the number of those who have to contribute to defray the civil expenses of the Government, which expenses would not be at all diminished, even although there was a considerable number of estates thrown up. And therefore in truth, the whole island would be interested in promoting immigration, whether a particular estate did or did not require immigration. The estate that applies for and obtains immigrants, pays all the expenses incidental to the settlement of them upon the estate, and a moiety of the cost of importation; but the proportion which an estate not receiving them may have to pay for the expense of bringing those immigrants to Jamaica, is paid for that which is a public benefit, in which every proprietor shares, although he may not take a single immigrant: the abandonment of many estates in the colony of Jamaica, in consequence of the impossibility of carrying them on with the present supply of labour, would be injurious to the remaining proprietors, who must then defray the public expenditure without the contribution of others. The further evil would be, that the civilization of the negro population would be arrested: they could not be raised to that condition in society which they are capable of reaching, if the colony be placed in such a state that it cannot carry on its government, and the white population are obliged to withdraw their capital from it. The welfare and civilization of the emancipated negro are as much dependent on the prosperity of the colony as the white proprietor himself.

4510. Then you see no difficulty in the way of a general tax upon the estates, for the purpose of immigration, and giving the negroes the choice of what estates they would afterwards go to?—None.

4511. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You are aware that in the reports of the stipendiary magistrates there appears to be a great discrepancy of opinion as to the question of immigration: for instance, the reports of Mr. Chamberlaine, Mr. Kent, Mr. Gurley, and Mr. Grant, all go more or less to prove that labour may be had for fair wages and kind treatment?—My impression is, that the majority of the stipendiary magistrates are in favour of immigration. The opinion of a very intelligent stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Fyfe, in page 45, is most favourable to it.

4512. What is your opinion with respect to that discrepancy: for instance, in page 37, Stipendiary Magistrate Chamberlaine says, "On the whole, I can safely say that the present prospects of the planters are cheering and satisfactory, the condition of the labourer improving and happy?"—I do not doubt the perfectly happy condition of the negro population in Jamaica. Perhaps he is speaking of some district, or part of a district, where immigration may not be required. But if he means to assert that immigration is not required for the colony generally, his opinion is most erroneous.

4513. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Do you think the stipendiary magistrates are enabled to give a correct report of the existing state of things in their districts?—They have the means of giving a correct account of the state of things in their districts.

4514. Then supposing that the reports of the majority of the stipendiary magistrates were confirmatory of the opinion just read, do you think that that opinion would be entitled to consideration?—I do not think the stipendiary magistrates have quite the means of forming a judgment of the extent to which immigration is required; their habits do not afford them the means; I should much rather take the opinion of a practical man, who knew the working of estates, and the way in which labour is required for and bestowed upon them.

4515. One of the stipendiary magistrates mentions that the greatest want felt in the colony is the want of domestic servants?—I suppose that is a stipendiary magistrate living in one of the towns. I would set against the opinion of those who assert that immigration is not necessary, the decided opinion of Sir Charles Metcalfe, that it is; he having visited every part of the island, and having taken great pains to investigate the actual condition of the colony. In his letter resigning his government, he says, "The country has vast resources yet undeveloped. A larger population of Africans for labour in the low lands is requisite, and the establishment of a population of Europeans in the high lands

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is highly desirable. Capital, which, in despair of adequate profit, has been withdrawn, will require increasing enterprise and success to tempt it to resort hither."

4516. Are not the majority of the reports of the stipendiary magistrates against your view of the case?—I should be very unwilling to make any observations upon the reports of the stipendiary magistrates, but I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion, that if their reports are against my view of the case, I do not and cannot attach such value to them as to hesitate between them and the clear, decided opinion of Sir Charles Metcalfe and the different custodes of the parishes, whose reports are very strong as to the necessity of immigration.

4517. *Chairman.*] Is not the supply of labour very unequal in different parts of Jamaica?—It is.

4518. May not that account, in some degree, for the different opinions expressed upon the subject by the stipendiary magistrates?—I have mentioned that as the reason in some districts.

4519. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Would not you expect very great opposition in those parts of the colony in which sufficient labour exists, to any proposition of a tax to be imposed upon all the colony, to defray the expenses of immigration, from which they would derive no benefit?—So far from it, I believe that throughout the colony you would scarcely find any individual dissenting from the necessity of immigration. I am satisfied that they would not complain of bearing a share of the expense of that measure, because every proprietor has a direct interest in promoting immigration, inasmuch as he has a direct interest in continuing the present cultivation of the colony; if the cultivation of the colony is to any extent abandoned, he is almost as great a sufferer as the proprietors whose estates are abandoned.

Mr. *Thomas MacCornock*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. T. MacCornock.

4520. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the island of Jamaica?—Yes.

4521. What has been the length of your residence, and what has been the nature of your occupation in the island?—I resided in the island 37 years, as a planter, except eight months.

4522. When did you leave the island?—On the 15th of April last.

4523. Had you the possession or the management of any sugar plantations there?—Yes, for the last 30 years.

4524. For how long a time have you had the management of any estates?—For 11 years I was overseer of one of the largest estates in the island; and for the last 19 years I have been attorney for several, some of them large ones, during a part of that time.

4525. Up to the time of your leaving the island were you residing upon any one of those estates?—Yes.

4526. Upon which of them?—The one I was so long overseer upon; Golden Grove, in St. Thomas-in-the-East.

4527. That is the one of which you were 11 years overseer?—Yes; and after that I had the sole management as attorney.

4528. You are not the proprietor of the estate?—No; I shall have resided upon the estate 30 years on the 25th of next month.

4529. Can you state what proportion the cultivated land in Jamaica bears to the land which is uncultivated?—That is a question to which I cannot give anything like a very decided answer; but I should suppose there is not at present a fourth of the whole land in the island under cultivation.

4530. You think that three-fourths are uncultivated?—I should think so.

4531. How are those three-fourths which are uncultivated occupied?—There is a large proportion of land which never was cultivated, which never was opened; of the 4,000,000 of acres which are considered to be in Jamaica a large proportion never was opened at all; but for several years back a considerable number of estates have been abandoned, and of those which are still in cultivation a considerable proportion of the estates are already thrown out of cultivation, as far as sugar goes.

4532. Do you mean that there is a great deal of primitive forest in Jamaica which has never been at all cultivated?—Yes.

4533. Can you state what proportion that land bears to the whole?—I cannot say; but I should think at least half.

4534. But

4534. But although it is still in a primitive state, and has not been reduced to cultivation, has it been appropriated?—I have heard of a great deal of land having been patented in former days, which has since been allowed to revert to the Crown; but I am not competent to give anything like a particular answer to that question.

4535. Do you mean that a large portion of the unredeemed land is considered now as the Crown property?—I believe it is; but the returns of the surveyors appointed by the Governor in the last year that Sir Lionel Smith was there, will show it officially.

4536. What are the principal staple productions of Jamaica?—Sugar and coffee are the two great staples, including rum of course, and there are pimento and ginger and arrow-root, but those last two or three are to a very trifling extent in our end of the island; there is one property which makes a good deal of arrow-root.

4537. How many estates have been abandoned of late years?—I cannot speak as to the number in the whole island; I think in our parish alone I may say there are four.

4538. All in your own neighbourhood?—Not in the immediate neighbourhood.

4539. Have they been sold?—Yes; there are a good many that have been cut up and sold in lots to labourers.

4540. What became of the machinery?—Most of it was sold; there is some of it for sale now.

4541. What is the principal production of the estate upon which you reside?—Sugar alone.

4542. What is the acreage of the estate?—About 2,000 acres.

4543. What proportion of the 2,000 acres is in cane cultivation?—About 400.

4544. In what way do you cultivate the other 1,600?—The property is in pasturage, as much as is sufficient for feeding the stock; a large proportion is in the possession of the negroes—the provision grounds of the negroes, and the remainder uncultivated.

4545. When you say in the possession of the negroes, you mean land which they are allowed to call provision grounds, together with their residences?—Yes.

4546. How many acres are so disposed of?—I cannot exactly say, but I suppose from 400 to 500; but when I say that they are the negroes' grounds, everybody acquainted with Jamaica knows that they are in the habit of moving backwards and forwards; perhaps a negro may have grounds at present in cultivation, and there may be two or three other grounds which he is not working now, but which have not been taken from him; I would say that 400 or 500 acres may be in their possession, and have been worked as negro grounds.

4547. Is it your practice upon that estate to allow your negroes to occupy houses, and with their houses to have provision grounds rentfree?—No.

4548. Do they pay rent?—Yes; but the invalids are not charged any.

4549. Do they pay rent for the house separately, or for the house and provision ground conjointly?—The rent charged is a shilling a week for the house, without reference to the number of people who live in it, and for the provision grounds a shilling a week for every adult getting provisions from the land.

4550. Is that shilling a week without reference to the extent of provision grounds they occupy?—Yes; unfortunately for us they have had an unlimited extent, from the time of slavery, and we have not yet been able to bring it down to what is desirable to limit them to the proper extent.

4551. How many negroes had you upon that estate at the termination of the apprenticeship?—At the abolition of the apprenticeship there were between 500 and 600.

4552. Including all ages and sexes?—Yes.

4553. How many are there now?—I dare say there are 400, but I am not certain, because we have no returns.

4554. How many of the 400 are able-bodied labourers?—It is a mere guess, but I should suppose from 80 to 120 agricultural labourers of both sexes.

4555. Then there are from 80 to 120 labourers upon the estate, to every one of whom you allow provision grounds *ad libitum*, without any restraint or restriction?—There has been no restriction put upon them yet.

4556. Do they cultivate as they like, and when they like?—In a great measure.

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4557. Do you find that a very inconvenient plan?—A very bad plan.

4558. Practically speaking, can you state what is the average amount of provision ground that each labourer occupies?—No, I cannot.

4559. Do they occupy an acre each?—Some occupy more than an acre, others not half an acre.

4560. Do they take it where they like, or is the land they occupy adjacent to their dwellings?—Adjacent to their dwellings the land is limited; they have merely a yard or garden; but they cannot take it where they like; they cannot go to what has been pasture or cane land and cultivate a piece of that ground. It is on a part of the estate that was, during slavery, called the negro grounds.

4561. If you find that practice is inconvenient, why have you not restricted the amount of land they occupy?—From the difficulty of getting labour; they are independent; we are obliged to submit to what we admit is an evil, in the same manner as we are obliged to submit to their working this week and sitting down next; that necessity we are under from the want of labour.

4562. How long have you adopted the practice of negroes paying the rent of a shilling for their house, and a shilling a head for their provision grounds?—Ever since within the first year of freedom; the first year we got little or nothing in the way of rent.

4563. Is it the general custom in the island, or is it peculiar to your estate?—There is a great variation in that respect; on some estates they pay no rent at all; the managers have tried all they could, but they cannot get it, and they are obliged to submit to it.

4564. Is it the common custom to pay rent?—Only partially, in every part of the island of which I have heard.

4565. What is the nature of the contract between you and the labourers under which they pay the rent you have mentioned?—That they shall labour for the estate.

4566. Have you any contract as to the rent they shall pay?—They are told "You shall work for the estate, and you pay me a shilling a week for the house, and every adult that gets provisions upon the estate will pay a shilling a week for that." But as to a written contract, not one in a hundred will enter into one, for they were advised not to do it.

4567. Then with regard to the occupation of the houses and provision grounds, you enter into a verbal contract with each of the labourers, the nature of which is, that so long as they live upon the estate, they are to work for you, and to pay you a shilling for the house, and a shilling a head for the land?—Yes.

4568. Do you find that that contract is fully complied with on the part of the negro; does he readily pay you the rent and give you his labour upon the estate?—No, he does not adhere to the contract; they often work for two or three weeks, and then be idle a week or two weeks; this week I may have a third more people at work than I have next week, because it depends entirely upon themselves.

4569. You mean that you are subject to great caprice on the part of the labourer, with regard to the fulfilment of that portion of the contract which relates to his working for you?—Precisely so.

4570. In the event of the labourer so absenting himself, have you any remedy?—We may have a remedy.

4571. What is it?—To eject him off the estate.

4572. Do you resort to that remedy?—I have not done so in more than two or three instances, because if I sent them away I should not perhaps be able to carry on the estate; therefore I chose the least of two evils. I was obliged to submit to it in order to carry on the estate.

4573. You mean that if you sent away any labourer in consequence of his so neglecting his work, you could not have supplied his place?—Yes; the scarcity of labour is so great.

4574. Is there any other remedy under the laws which exist in the colony? Having entered into that sort of verbal contract with your labourer, can you have a remedy by going before a stipendiary magistrate and complaining that he has neglected his work?—I might take him before a magistrate now, and within the last two or three years I might get justice, but not before, which caused a great deal of this mischief. But as soon as the sentence is passed and justice is done, the labourer is so independent that perhaps he goes away, and I have nobody to put in his place.

4575. You

4575. You mean that on account of the great scarcity of labour you are as much afraid to resort to the remedy of going before a justice as you are afraid of resorting to the remedy of ejecting him?—Yes.

4576. What process do you resort to in case of ejectment?—It is three months' notice, I think.

4577. Do you mean that if you have occasion to eject a labourer for not working for you, you cannot do it in a more summary mode than by giving him three months' notice?—I have not yet done it; but I simply state what we have the power to do, as I have understood from the highest legal authority in England, sent to me officially by the Governor's orders, that if a landlord breaks the agreement the tenant has a right to the provisions that are growing until they are ripe, and he takes them away on his paying rent for the land; but if the tenant breaks his agreement and goes away, he has no right. If there is no fault on the owner's part, the tenant has no right to anything out of the grounds from the day he leaves.

4578. In the event of your finding it necessary to turn a man out of his cottage because the man has neglected to work for you, are you obliged to give him three months' notice before he goes?—No; all those who occupy houses are placed as weekly tenants, as far as the house goes.

4579. Then you may turn him out at a week's notice?—Yes; but it has not been the practice, because we could not get people to put in their place.

4580. You say you have found great difficulty in obtaining the performance of the contract which relates to the labour that the man is to give you; have you found any difficulty as to the rent he is to pay you?—No; they generally do pretty well, if I confine myself to that particular estate; but speaking of the whole parish, which I know very well, there has been a great difficulty; and I know that mischief and ruinous consequences have resulted to the proprietors from it.

4581. Then in the parish generally, there is great difficulty in collecting the rents, but upon your estate you do collect the rents?—I have done so the last two years or more; but I have had great difficulty, because they were encouraged by high authority to evade it as much as possible.

4582. Supposing the labourer does not pay you the rent, and you take him before the magistrate, does the law afford you any remedy for the recovery of the rent?—Yes, if we can take witnesses to prove it.

4583. You say that your contracts are verbal, but if you can bring a witness to the contract, the stipendiary magistrate will enforce the payment of the rent?—Latterly, since freedom, the stipendiary magistrates have not had exclusive jurisdiction; they have sat with the local magistrates, and if you took the labourer before them for the rent, and if you could bring a witness to the contract, the last two years and upwards they have adjudicated fairly, and awarded the rent to be paid.

4584. Are the Committee to understand that a difference of opinion exists upon the subject between the stipendiary magistrates and the other magistrates; that the other magistrates are willing to enforce the payment of the rent, while the stipendiary magistrates object to it?—No; there is little or no difference in that respect at present; they have co-equal jurisdiction, and they act together in a way beneficial to the country; that is since Sir C. Metcalfe's arrival.

4585. In case of your ejecting a labourer for non-performance of work, would you allow him to take away the crop growing upon the ground at the time?—That would depend in a great measure upon his general character; I would consider that if he did not break his agreement, and I deemed it necessary to eject him, he would be entitled to the growing crops, and would get them.

4586. How many classes of labourers have you upon your estate?—There may be at least six or seven; there are tradesmen, field-people, cattle-men, cartmen, mule-men, watchmen, and domestics of both sexes.

4587. What are the rates of wages which you pay to those various classes of labourers?—They differ very much; but I do as little as possible by the day; I have all the work done that I can get, done by the job; but the cattle-men and others are paid by the day, and their wages vary according to their age and strength; for instance, one cattle-man has 10*s.* a week, with his house and grounds; he has 12*s.*, paying 2*s.* for his rent; but another man, not equal to him, I should not give so much to; but speaking on the average, every adult person can easily earn 6*s.* a week clear, after paying his rent.

 4588. You

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4588. You deduct the rent from the wages?—The day they are paid the rent is taken.

4589. How often are they paid?—Every Saturday morning.

4590. Are the wages the subject of any express contract?—We have told them what they are to get by the day, those that we cannot employ by the job.

4591. Have you written or verbal contracts as to the wages to be paid?—It is all verbal. When freedom came I wrote down the various rates of wages that I would give to each class, and distributed about a dozen written copies to various people; this was about a month before freedom; and told them to show them to the stipendiary magistrates, who then had more jurisdiction than the others, and to the ministers of the Established Church, and the Wesleyans, and the Baptists, to show them those rates, and take their opinion (and I sent home copies of those rates to the proprietors of the estates) but the negroes never agreed to it.

4592. Then you have no written contract now?—No.

4593. Then how do you determine what you are to pay each man?—Some of them have 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, others less, according to their ability and attention to work.

4594. Is it a subject of contract between you and the labourer?—Yes.

4595. Is it a written or a verbal contract?—Verbal; they would have nothing to do with a written contract.

4596. Is it the custom in Jamaica for the men to work by task?—Yes; now it is getting general, but up to the present hour, on many estates, they will not work by task.

4597. Speaking of field work, what does the task consist of; how long does it occupy?—It depends entirely upon the nature of the work; for example, for digging cane-holes in my part of the country, the usual rate is 2*s.* sterling for 70 holes, and they finish it by one o'clock, sometimes by 12; I have known it by 11.

4598. One labourer?—Yes.

4599. Beginning at what hour?—He cannot begin till daylight, and that will be half-past five the longest day. I have known them do it in six hours, but in from seven to eight hours they can do it with ease.

4600. When you employ your field labourers by the day, what do you pay them?—It varies; I have paid 1*s.*, and I have paid 1*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* 3*d.*

4601. What does that depend upon; upon the ability of the man?—Yes, and also the urgency of the work; and if I wanted him to do it on Saturday I should have to give him 2*s.* They would not look at anything less than 2*s.* upon the Saturday.

4602. What do you pay by the day those labourers who are employed about the works and buildings in the manufacture of sugar?—Those that are engaged in the manufacture of sugar I pay by the quantity made, by the week. I have known them make from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* a day, and the boiler-men 2*s.* 3*d.*, because they were rather longer at work.

4603. In your answers you are speaking of sterling money?—Entirely.

4604. How many days in the week do you find that your labourers are willing to work, and do work, for their wages?—Now we have no difficulty in getting them to work five days. They made a great struggle after freedom to take the Friday, but we succeeded in preventing that; we got them to work for the five days; and within the last four months, since I have had a good many Africans from Sierra Leone, I have got them to work on the Saturdays, so as to keep the mill about on the Saturdays. The Creoles would not listen to it, but I have succeeded in getting them to keep the mill about every three out of four Saturdays the last six months, and that was chiefly the Sierra Leone people.

4605. Have you many Sierra Leone people?—About 70, males and females.

4606. Do you include those Sierra Leone people in the number you gave?—No, I do not.

4607. Have those Sierra Leone people the same advantages, and do they earn the same wages as the other labourers?—Yes, they have the same advantages.

4608. Have they houses?—Yes.

4609. And they earn the same wages?—Yes.

4610. Do you find that your labourers, when they do work, are willing to work, and do work, five days in the week?—Those who come to work on the Monday generally work for five days in the week.

4611. Then when you said that you had cause to complain of the men absenting themselves to a great extent from their labour, are the Committee to understand

understand that you mean that they go away for periods together?—Sometimes on the Monday; when you find a number absent, you inquire where they are, and you find that they are either in their houses, or they are walking away, and cannot be found, and they come next week.

4612. They stay away for a week or two?—Yes.

4613. Does that prevail to a great extent?—Yes; and not one negro in ten, if he is unwell, so as to take a dose of physic or a little medicine on Monday, or any other day, will go to work again that week; that is their general conduct; there are exceptions, and on the one estate many.

4614. And you are afraid to compel them?—Yes, for the reason I mentioned, and my reluctance to take them to law.

4615. Have you the means of compelling them, if you were not afraid to do so?—I could turn them off the estate, but I could not get other people.

4616. Have you the means by going to the magistrate?—If I took him to the magistrate, the magistrate would act with him according to law, but then he perhaps would not come back, or at least for a considerable time.

4617. Do they sometimes execute the work in a careless or slovenly manner?—Very often.

4618. What is your remedy in that case?—Not to pay them; if it is by the job, and the people come and demand their money, when the work is slovenly done, they are told, "You cannot be paid till you do the work again;" and in some cases they do the work properly, and get the money; in other cases they summon the manager before the court, and sometimes the judge decides in favour of the plaintiff, and sometimes in favour of the defendant.

4619. Are you in the habit, when work is badly done, of appealing for protection to the justices?—As far as I myself am concerned from the estate I am on, I have never taken a negro before the magistrate, either for rent or for work.

4620. Have you had any occasion to complain of the bad performance of work by your labourers?—Repeatedly.

4621. Then why did not you go before the magistrate; was it from the same cause you mentioned before?—I have been so long among the negroes on that estate, that I generally got them persuaded to do the work again; I would not sanction paying for work half done; besides, I always had a great aversion to take any of them before a court.

4622. You have practically found that the remedy of withholding payment for work improperly done has been sufficient?—In some cases; but that does not apply to others. I never took a negro yet to the court since freedom, either about his work or about his rent. The only instances where two or three have been taken were for abuse to the overseer, or for injuring themselves in some matter between themselves, that I had nothing to do with.

4623. Is it a common thing for labourers in your neighbourhood to be taken before the magistrate in consequence of having done their work in a slovenly manner?—I have seen it repeatedly; and they, taking their employers for payment.

4624. Can you state, generally speaking, what proportion of your able-bodied labourers are absent from their labour from idleness and neglect of work?—I cannot give anything like a positive answer, they are so capricious; this week there will be double the number that there are next, or nearly so.

4625. Do you find constantly that any large proportion of your labourers are absent from work?—Certainly, a large proportion.

4626. But you do find that when they work, they work five days a week?—Yes, five days; they tried to get Fridays after freedom first came, and I was obliged to say, "If you will not work the five days I cannot employ you," and fortunately they gave in, after much trouble, to my argument; but if they had not done that, I must have submitted to them, as many others had to do, having no alternative.

4627. Have you ever found that your manufacture of sugar has been impeded through the accidental and unforeseen absence of labourers?—Yes; I have known on Monday morning that the mill could not be put up till hands were collected; that is the worst day in the week; but if once we get a tolerable number on Monday morning, I cannot complain that they ever used to stop in the middle of the week, because they knew that if they did so, they would not get their wages on the Saturday, if once they went to work on the Monday.

4628. Do you mean, that if the labourer worked for three days in the week,

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and no more, when the Saturday morning came you would not pay him anything for the work he had done, unless he had worked five days?—Certainly not, unless he had been sick, or had other good reason.

4629. Is that practice consistent with the law of Jamaica?—Yes, I should think so; because he is told when he comes on the Monday, "Unless you work five days you get no pay."

4630. In the case of any labourer who had only worked with you three days in the week, and summoned you before a justice for payment of his wages for those three days, would it prove on your part a valid defence to say that he had not worked five days?—Yes; I would take proof with me to say that he was told, "If you begin on Monday morning you must work five days;" I would consider that a perfectly valid defence, and I should hope that I would be considered justifiable.

4631. Do you know that that is held to be a good defence?—Yes.

4633. Have you ever resorted to it?—I never have.

4634. Have you known other persons do so?—I think I have.

4635. Viscount *Howick.*] You contract for a week's labour, and if the whole week's labour is not performed you hold that no payment is due?—Unless they can show good cause they get nothing; if they are sick that is another thing; if they are allowed to draw off when the mill is about, the canes spoil, and the sugar is lost.

4636. *Chairman.*] But, whatever the law may be, you act upon that principle?—Yes; if once they begin upon the Monday they must work five days; if they are sick they get medicines, and I have a black man attending them, who administers all the medicines as prescribed by the surgeon.

4637. The labourers working upon those terms earn in money wages from 6*s.* to 10*s.* a week?—Yes, if they choose.

4638. Do you find that they raise upon their provision grounds more than enough provisions to supply their families, and that they are thereby enabled to make money by selling provisions?—Yes, a great deal.

4639. Altogether, with these advantages, are the labourers earning so much money as to enable them to save it and become rich?—Yes, and to be idle from the making so much; a great many have bought land from that circumstance. I would beg to add, that they do not raise so much provisions now to sell as they did when they were slaves.

4640. Do you attribute to the high wages they obtain their habit of leaving you sometimes and not working for a week together?—Unquestionably.

4641. Do they ever abstain from work for a fortnight, or a longer period?—No, I cannot say that they do, on that one estate.

4642. Has the rate of wages been the same as it now is ever since the commencement of freedom?—Generally speaking.

4643. Have you ever tried the experiment of lowering the wages, with a view to make it necessary for the labourer to work more continuously?—No; because unless everybody would do it there would be no use in me or one or two doing it; it would not succeed; and till we have got more labourers I do not think that it would succeed.

4644. You were understood to say that you had 500 negroes upon the estate during slavery?—At one time we had 600.

4645. You have now 400?—It is impossible to answer the question distinctly, because I cannot get a census of the number upon the estate; they go and come when they like.

4646. Can you state how many labourers per day were at work regularly on the estate during the last year of slavery?—Of all classes, I suppose 180; sometimes more.

4647. Do you find the women work now?—Some of them.

4648. How many labourers, men and women, have you had per day upon your estate latterly during freedom?—I cannot state; the last eight months I have been in that state of health that I have not been able to see, and it varies so much that I cannot give a positive answer.

4649. Can you give any information as to the comparative amount of labour which you have received during freedom and during slavery?—Yes; I would say the labour we get at present, even upon that one estate, is not more than two-thirds what it was during slavery.

4650. Do

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4650. Do you mean in the labour performed, or in the number of labourers? —Taking the whole together, taking into consideration the reduced number of labourers, and the less work they do comparatively speaking, I do not get more than two-thirds of the labour.

4651. You have stated, with regard to the number of labourers, that you do not know what the difference is?—But I look to the result of the labour; I know there is a great difference.

4652. How do you ascertain it?—Sometimes we may have a 100 at work, sometimes 80, sometimes 120.

4653. Have you no books from which you could tell by the payments you make how many labourers you have?—Yes, but those books are in Jamaica; I did not know when I left Jamaica that I was to come before the Committee.

4654. If you have suffered so much from a diminished supply of labour, how is it that you have not directed your attention to the subject sufficiently to ascertain what the difference has really been?—I say that it appears that we now get about two-thirds of the work done upon that particular estate.

4655. You mean, that taking the diminished number of labourers and the diminished period that they work together, you get one-third less than you formerly got?—Yes.

4656. How do you arrive at that estimate?—From the produce made, and the attention paid upon the estate where I reside; and with all that attention, and all that expense and trouble, we get only about two-thirds.

4657. Do you mean that you make two hogsheads of sugar now, where you made three before?—Yes, or thereabouts.

4658. Do you consider that the difference arises chiefly from the insufficient nature of the labour done, or from the diminished supply of labour?—From both.

4659. To which cause do you attribute it chiefly?—I think they are both about equal; but I beg distinctly to state, that with reference to two-thirds I confine it to one estate; for I know properties in the parish where there is not more than half of the labour got.

4660. To which of those two causes do you principally attribute the difference; do you principally attribute it to the less quantity of work done by the labourer as compared with what he did formerly, or to the diminished supply of workmen?—To the want of numbers, I think.

4661. Do you know how many able-bodied labourers you have upon your land at present?—The exact number I cannot state.

4662. Do you know how many you had upon it during slavery?—Able-bodied adults, about 150.

4663. How can you chiefly attribute the diminution of produce to the diminished supply of labour if you do not know what it is?—Seeing every day that I had a great many less; there were necessarily a great many idle.

4664. In what ratio do you think the quantum of work of each labourer has diminished?—During slavery we made often 25 hogsheads a week for months together, because they kept the mill about day and night; now they will only keep it so many hours, and we do not make more than 13 or 14 hogsheads; the same people make now 13 hogsheads a week who formerly made 25 hogsheads a week.

4665. Is that because they will no longer work at night, or because they do less work during the day?—No; when they are at work during the day, I cannot complain of them upon that particular estate; if they would keep the mill about from five o'clock in the morning till eight at night, which they could do with great ease, I would be quite satisfied.

4666. But the chief difference is, that formerly you made them work at night, and now they do not work at night?—Yes.

4667. How many hours do they work?—At the mill they work generally about eleven, sometimes twelve; in the field sometimes seven or eight hours.

4668. Have you any difficulty in getting that amount of work from them?—Sometimes we have, sometimes not.

4669. Have you ever tried by the inducement of higher wages to make them work at night still?—Yes; they will not do that for anything; I never asked them to work all night; but often when they have taken 10*s.*, I have said, "Why do not you make more money? when the mill is about instead of these 10*s.* you could with great ease make 15*s.* or 16*s.*; if you would do it, we should be able

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to stop the mill when wet weather comes, which would be better for you as well as the estate." But they will not do it; they are paid in proportion to the sugar they make, and they are generally satisfied with the money they get; they often get from 6*s.* to 10*s.* in the week, keeping the mill about this reduced period.

4670. You mean that the difference which it would make in their earnings will not induce them to work to the extent you desire?—Yes.

4671. You have not tried a higher rate of payment?—No.

4672. Is the diminished produce of sugar to be attributed in any degree to any effects of the weather?—The year before last was an excessively dry year; it affected the whole island. The year 1840 was about the driest year I have known during the 37 years I have been in Jamaica.

4673. Was the year 1839 dry?—It was favourable in my part of the island.

4674. Was the year 1841 dry?—No; it was a very favourable year; at least in that part of the island.

4675. Was the drought of 1840 such as to produce a considerable diminution in the crops?—Yes.

4676. Was 1841 a favourable season?—Yes; it was so favourable that we have large crops upon the ground, but I firmly believe they will not all be taken off.

4677. When you state that you only make two hogsheads of sugar where you formerly made three, do you speak of the unfavourable season of 1840, or of the favourable season of 1841?—I have taken the whole four years, which I think the fairest way.

4678. Was 1839 an unfavourable season?—Yes, I think it was; in other parts but not in ours; but the official documents will show what the amount of the crops was.

4679. What are the four years of which you speak?—Since 1838; the four years of freedom.

4680. Do you speak of the crops cut in those four years, or of the crops grown in those four years respectively to be cut in the next year?—I speak of 1838, 1839, 1840, and 1841; 1842 is not yet off.

4681. When you speak of the crop of 1838, do you speak of the crop cut in 1838, or of the crop grown in 1838?—The crop cut in 1838.

4682. Was the weather unfavourable in all those four years?—No; some of them were very good.

4683. How was the weather when you cut the crop of 1838?—I think it was a very favourable season, but at present I cannot recollect.

4684. Can you recollect how the weather was when you cut the crop of 1839?—I think it was pretty fair, but this happens to be a district that suffers less from dry weather than anywhere else.

4685. You say that the seasons of 1839 and 1840 were dry seasons?—Yes; 1840 particularly; 1839 not too dry in that one district.

4686. Then if 1839 and 1840 were dry seasons, the crops cut in 1840 and 1841 would be crops diminished by unfavourable seasons?—Yes; 1840 was an excessively dry season, and 1839 may have been a little dry also.

4687. Can you recollect whether the other three were average seasons?—I think they were upon that part of the island.

4688. Have you resorted upon your estate to any labour besides that of the people who are resident upon the estate?—Sometimes a few, but not many; it is generally people resident upon the estate.

4689. Do you think you have enough labourers resident now upon the estate to carry on the present cultivation of the estate if they would work regularly and continuously?—Since I got the Sierra Leone people there would be quite enough, if they would work regularly; if the people who are there now would do fair work and take as much money as I wish them to take, we have ample hands upon the estate.

4690. Is there much deficiency in the numbers upon the other estates, in the parish which comes under your inspection?—Yes; there is a great want of labour upon some of them, and upon others not. It depends upon the locality. There is one property which I have charge of where I can get plenty of labour; it depends upon the locality; it is in the interior, far from any other estate, and labourers can be got there from small settlements around.

4691. Do you know how many of the labourers, now resident upon your estate, were slaves upon it?—I cannot tell the number at present, but I should suppose

suppose that of those remaining, old and young of every description, there are from 300 to 400; but there is no means of getting any census.

4692. Is the labour well performed upon the estate you have just mentioned, in the interior?—Yes; it is all done by job in the fields; they often try to get the money when the work is badly done, and the overseer is instructed not to pay them till they do the work properly. It is the fault of the manager if he acts so dishonestly to the proprietor as to pay it.

4693. Although you do not know how many labourers you have upon the estate now, is it your opinion that the number of able-bodied labourers is much smaller than it was during slavery?—Not now, since I got the Sierra Leone people.

4694. You have as many now as you had before?—Yes; if they would do sufficient work there are sufficient hands upon that estate.

4695. Then if that is the case, you must have lost of your original supply of labourers, a quantity about equal to the number of Sierra Leone people you have received. What has become of those labourers that have so left you?—I cannot state exactly; most of them are living upon their own places.

4696. When was it that you introduced the Sierra Leone labourers?—When the first two vessels arrived that Mr. Barclay, our commissioner, brought; I went down to Kingston and brought some in June 1841.

4697. Previously to that had those other labourers gradually left you?—A good many of them.

4698. Have many of them bought land in your neighbourhood?—Yes, nearly all who left the estate.

4699. Do you find that those who so purchase land are willing afterwards to give labour to the neighbouring estates?—Very often.

4700. Do you employ many men who are so living in your neighbourhood? The hands that have left the estate and purchased land often come and work there.

4701. What extent of land do you find that each of those men have generally bought?—Some one, some two, some three, some four acres.

4702. At what rate are they able to buy that land?—I believe at Dalvy they got it for about two doubloons an acre.

4703. Do they build houses upon it?—Yes.

4704. Was it part of abandoned estates that they bought?—Yes.

4705. Did those Sierra Leone people that you have bring their families with them?—Very few; but there are some of them that have gone back to bring their families.

4706. They were satisfied with their employment in Jamaica?—Quite so; so much so that they got leave to go back and bring their families.

4707. Did you make any contract with those men before they arrived in Jamaica?—No.

4708. Were they imported at your expense, or at the expense of the colony?—At the expense of the island.

4709. What number of them came?—About 200 in the first vessels, but more since then.

4710. How came you to have so large an allotment out of 200?—At first I got 31; and it is proper I should state, in reference to the way in which they were engaged; when they were landed there was an agent appointed under the Government, and I went and engaged some of them to come; some of them agreed, some did not; after about 20 of them had agreed, and told me to come for them next day, they drew back; I had given them all 1*s.* apiece, and told them I would come for them the next day. The next day, when I went with two other gentlemen of our parish with whom others had agreed, they all drew back; they said that they were at liberty to engage as they pleased, and they had been better advised, and drew back; ultimately I succeeded, and got them to come; I got 31 so persuaded.

4711. What has been the general conduct of those labourers since they have been with you?—Very good, superior to what I looked for from Africans who had never been out of Africa.

4712. Are they in general Christians?—Yes.

4713. Were they Christians when they came to you?—A proportion of them. I have had about 20 baptised since they were in Golden Grove.

4714. In what state of education were they when they came to you?—There

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are two or three of them who had books whom I have seen in our church, and I have seen them read.

4715. Has their general conduct and demeanor been more steady and industrious and respectable than that of the other negroes on the estate?—Not more so, but it has been better than I expected; and they work as much as one can expect, seeing the example set them by the Creoles.

4716. Are they more industrious than the other labourers upon the estate?—Yes; they are steadier than many of the Creoles.

4717. Do you find them less disposed to absent themselves for long periods from labour?—Yes, up to the present time.

Lunæ, 20° *die Junii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Mr. C. Howard.
Viscount Chelsea.	Viscount Howick.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Vernon Smith.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Burge, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

W. Burge, Esq. 20 June 1842.

4718. *Chairman.*] ARE you desirous of offering any explanation of your former evidence?—With respect to the answer I gave to question 4480, and the two or three following questions, on the subject of the number of emigrants I considered requisite, I stated the number from 15,000 to 20,000. I wish to state that I contemplated that there should be this number of effective labourers, exclusive of the addition of their families, and that this number was, with a view of continuing the present cultivation, and exclusive of any Europeans who might be introduced into the island, and located in the higher parts of the island; but, upon very careful consideration of the number which I have mentioned, I am quite satisfied that this number is not sufficient, and that I ought to have given a larger number. My object was to place before the Committee no exaggerated statement of the extent of the remedy which was required; and I was anxious also to avoid leading the Committee to suppose that it was contemplated to bring in a large mass of immigrants at one time into the island. But there ought to be a larger number than 20,000; and I should say, that at least the number required for some years to come would be 25,000 effective labourers.

Mr. *Thomas M'Cornock*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *T. M'Cornock.*

4719. *Chairman.*] THE evidence which you gave on a former day was principally confined to the estate of Golden Grove, with which you appear to have been more immediately connected; have you had other estates under your charge?—Yes.

4720. Where were they situated?—In the same parish, St. Thomas-in-the-East.

4721. How many such estates had you under your charge?—Immediately before leaving I had four properties besides Golden Grove; previous to that I had several others, which I gave up some time ago.

4722. Were those four under your immediate management?—Yes.

4723. Can you state what proportion the existing number of labourers upon those estates bear to the number of slaves upon those same estates previously to the period of emancipation?—As near as I can judge, I would say half. It is impossible to pretend to be exact, as we have no census.

4724. The number is much less than it was?—A great deal less.

4725. Can you give any accurate statement of what proportion the labour actually

actually performed at present bears to the labour performed upon those estates during slavery?—Not more than half.

4726. Do you mean that the resident labourers perform as much work individually as the resident labourers in slavery did?—No; taking the whole four years of freedom together, I would say the produce is not more than half; and that is the best criterion of the labour.

4727. Have you more than half the number of labourers?—Sometimes we have, and sometimes not a fourth; sometimes they are idle altogether.

4728. What has become of the other half of your labourers?—Indulging themselves, as they have it in their power do. Sometimes they sit down in their houses; sometimes they walk about, saying they are freemen.

4729. Is the rate of wages you have been paying upon the other four estates the same as upon the Golden Grove estate?—Upon one that adjoins it, it is about the same; upon the others it is less.

4730. Why is that?—Because they are in a remote part of the parish, distant from other estates; there are a number of small coffee settlements surrounding them, where people come, who live near, and work for less there, instead of travelling several miles further to other estates; they are in the interior of the parish.

4731. Have you had any immigrants upon those four estates?—On one of them; the one next Golden Grove.

4732. How many?—When I left the parish, there were nine Africans there. After I was in Spanish Town, I got a letter from the overseer both of Golden Grove and of that estate, saying that a number of Africans had come to Golden Grove, and that they had gone to the estate, to the amount of 37. I had ordered no more to be taken on Golden Grove three months previously.

4733. Do you consider that upon those four estates the number of labourers whose services you can command is less than you require for the proper cultivation of those properties?—At present, they have enough labour.

4734. On all the four estates?—Those near Golden Grove, to which the Africans have gone, have not enough; they have been quite at a loss for labour. Upon the two remote ones in the mountains we have enough now, for the reason I mentioned before, that there are no other estates near them, and the people come from the surrounding mountains, and will work there at a less rate than they will go further to wealthier estates for labour. They are very poor estates, and high wages could not be given.

4735. Have you ever had complaints of the want of labour upon those two estates?—Very often during freedom.

4736. To what do you attribute the increased number at present?—There are a number of small settlements around them, and they offered those people employment, and they were glad to take it. They would come and work a week or two and then rest themselves.

4737. Those four estates are all in the same parish?—Yes.

4738. There are two estates near Golden Grove, and upon those you have a deficient quantity of labour?—Yes; one is a sugar estate, the other a pen for feeding cattle.

4739. Are you conversant with all the estates in the parish?—Yes; I have been 37 years there, and I have held a very responsible situation in it.

4740. What is the situation you hold in the parish?—I am what is called in Jamaica the Custos Rotulorum, or chief magistrate of two parishes, called the precinct of St. Thomas-in-the-East, and St. David, the largest in Jamaica, and I have lived in that precinct for 37 years.

4741. Are you personally acquainted with the state of cultivation and general statistics of all the estates in those two parishes?—In the whole of St. Thomas-in-the-East; St. David's I am not very well acquainted with, because it is a great distance from me; but what we call parishes are more like counties in England.

4742. How many estates are there in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East?—To the best of my recollection, I think 62 sugar estates.

4743. You are conversant with the details of all those 62 estates?—With all the details, both in slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom.

4744. Can you state to the Committee whether, speaking generally with regard to those 62 estates, there does prevail a great want of additional labour?—Most unquestionably.

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4745. Are you at all aware in what ratio you might fairly state that the supply of labour in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East has diminished since the period of slavery?—I would say for the whole parish there is not more than half the labour given, as near as I can judge.

4746. Do you mean that the negroes who were formerly slaves upon the estate have left that parish, or that most of them are still there, but that they refuse to work?—Still in the parish; but they are freeholders themselves, and where they have not bought land they have so much their own way, that they will work two or three weeks, and sit down two or three.

4747. Do you attribute that to the high wages they receive?—Yes.

4748. Do you think the number of labourers resident in that parish would be sufficient for the cultivation of that parish, if they could be induced to work industriously and continuously?—If the whole of the labourers that were there when freedom came, were to work as they did before, it might be sufficient. That would include both men and women; an almost stop was put to women working.

4749. Do you suppose that the number now in the parish are equal to the number which the first commencement of freedom found there?—I should suppose there cannot be much difference; they have not left the parish.

4750. Do you think it desirable to introduce a number of immigrants into the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East?—Decidedly, otherwise half the cultivation will cease.

4751. What do you suppose would be the immediate effect of the introduction of those immigrants upon the labourers now there?—It would have a very good effect, even a good moral effect, without waiting for the number which is absolutely requisite, which I have had experience of, and can explain to the Committee, if it is desired.

4752. When you speak of the number absolutely requisite, do you mean in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East, or do you refer to the whole island of Jamaica?—I can answer for either.

4753. Will you state what number you think would be requisite for the whole island of Jamaica?—If they began the immigration of blacks immediately, it would take at least three or four years to get 50,000; and without that number, and in that time, cultivation cannot be carried on equal to what it was at the termination of slavery, taking into consideration not only those who have already dropped off from work, but the number that are continually going off. I wish to observe, that their conduct is remarkably good in every respect, except the want of industry. I hope I shall have an opportunity of stating that afterwards; it is only industry they want; and suppose you begin now, and you take three or four years to accomplish it, the number that will have dropped off, and become independent by that time, will be such as to require 50,000, in my humble opinion.

4754. When you speak of the want of industry, how are those who have adopted those idle habits able to live to maintain themselves?—In the first place, they have few wants; and, in the next place, they support themselves a great deal upon the provision grounds from their former masters; that we submit to in the hope of getting them sometimes to work; that is, from the hope of getting them sometimes to work we are obliged to submit to their working two or three weeks, and then being absolutely idle for a week or two at Christmas, sometimes a month; and at August sometimes a month.

4755. Are you correctly understood to say, that you think immigration is necessary in consequence of the idle habits of the negroes, rather than from any diminution in the number of the negroes?—Yes.

4756. What is your opinion as to the comparative state of the population of Jamaica at the time of emancipation, and at the present period?—I am satisfied that there has been a considerable increase of births, but I am also certain that there has been a great many deaths that might have been prevented had the people acted otherwise than they did, for the people will not pay for medical attendance, in consequence of which the doctors are obliged some of them to leave the country. As a proof of that, I can state, that in the large parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East I only know one estate (Golden Grove) where the labourers have agreed to pay the doctor, and have paid him, since the 1st January 1839; the estate paid him up to that time; it paid him five months after freedom; but the others will not, although they can get it on such moderate terms. As I have

I have stated, many deaths happen, particularly of young children, because they will not pay for a doctor, whom they can have on the terms I am ready to state, if desired.

4757. Upon the whole, what is the result of the comparison as to the amount of the population?—I should think it is about the same number; but it is all opinion; there is no census; but from the great number of births there would have been more now if there had not been so many deaths.

4758. Do you think this increase of deaths, the causes you have mentioned, as compared with what took place formerly, is still continuing?—Yes.

4759. Do you think that, upon the whole, the population is increasing from natural causes?—Yes, decidedly.

4760. With regard to their not paying for medical attendance, it appears, from what you have stated, that the custom which prevails in some of the West India colonies, of the proprietor paying for medical attendance, as part of the wages, does not prevail in Jamaica?—No; I am satisfied that the people would not agree to any such thing.

4761. What are the terms to which you allude upon which medical attendance is offered to them?—Upon the one estate I mentioned, each working adult person pays 1*s.* a month. For this he not only gets medical attendance at all times for himself, but for his old people, his invalids, and his young children, down to infants at the breast.

4762. To whom is that paid?—To the surgeon; 1*s.* per month from each working person, that is 3*d.* sterling a week; and for that he not only gets medical attendance for the persons that pay the money, but for the whole of the family, from grandfather and grandmother down to infants.

4763. But those terms are not generally complied with?—There is no other estate that I know where it is done in St. Thomas-in-the-East.

4764. Is there an abundant supply of medical men in the island?—Abundant; they are obliged to come away, because they cannot live. Perhaps I may be permitted to add, as elucidating the character of the people, who have many good qualities, although they have this want of industry, that although they will not pay this 13*s.* a year for medical advice, they will spend 5*l.*, 10*l.*, or 20*l.* upon a funeral. I did all I could to persuade the hands on the other estates to do the same as they did upon Golden Grove, but they would not.

4765. Do you think it probable that unless some change in the supply of labour can be effected, estates in Jamaica will continue to be abandoned?—They must be.

4766. What in your opinion will be the effect upon the colony, if that abandonment of estates goes on?—As regards the colony, of course when a number are thrown off, the estates that will remain, that is, the good estates, may be able to get wages a little cheaper, but the whole of the taxes would fall upon them, and it would be impossible for them to pay what would be necessary to keep up the establishments of the island. They must be reduced, including schools for the young, and religious instruction for all, as well as the prisons, roads, and so forth. Then with respect to the people, they must suffer very much indeed. The labouring population when the estates are abandoned will be deprived of those comforts and luxuries which they have been enjoying, and which are every day, I am happy to say, increasing. They will not get money to purchase them, neither will they get that religious instruction or education which, much to their credit, they are so anxious for their children to get.

4767. What change have you observed in the general character and habits of the negroes since the commencement of freedom?—Generally speaking, it is wonderfully good, when we consider what they were as slaves. Their conduct is surprisingly good and creditable to them in every respect, with the single exception of industry; they will not work, because they say they have no occasion for it, and we cannot deny it.

4768. Their disinclination to work arises from the fact, that they find themselves independent and comfortable, by means of the wages arising from the little work they do?—Precisely. I would state, with regard to the rate of wages, that the planters in Jamaica would not object to the mere amount of wages, say 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, or even 2*s.*, to the workmen, provided we got anything like a fair quantity of labour for it; but if they were paid by the day, you would not get

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the value of three hours' labour. That is the reason why it is necessary to put them on job-work, and to the present hour many will not take it.

4769. If the negroes worked fairly and industriously by the day, you would, for the 1*s.* 6*d.*, get 10 or 12 hours' work, where you now get but four to six hours?—Yes; we would even be satisfied with nine hours' labour, good work, which was the time fixed as a day's work in the apprenticeship. If they would work nine hours fairly, they would have ample time for themselves, and we would be quite satisfied.

4770. Do you think the moral characters of the negroes have been raised since the commencement of freedom?—Yes, it has; they are attentive to religious duties; and their observance of the Sabbath is highly praiseworthy in every part of the island. Our precinct has upwards of 20 places of worship in it, and as many schools.

4771. Are the children of the negroes regular in their attendance at school?—A great proportion of them are; others are not, because their parents keep them at home in idleness.

4772. For the most part, are the parents desirous that their children should be educated?—A great many of them show the best disposition, others keep them at home idle.

4773. Do they chiefly receive education gratuitously, or do they pay for it?—Till the present time, they have been receiving it gratuitously, as far as the parochial establishments or the Established Church has gone. I am aware that some of the dissenting bodies have paid 3*d.* a week, and very properly; it is an excellent plan, and we shall all be obliged to fall into it now.

4774. You think it desirable?—Quite so; they place more value upon what they pay for, and will make their children attend better.

4775. Do you find a willingness on their part to pay?—When it was first started, just when I was leaving the parish, they said no, but I am sure they will soon come into it. I have no hesitation in stating, that they are well able to pay for the education of their children, much more so than the labouring classes either in England or Scotland. On the last day I was in the parish, at the quarterly meeting of the vestry, they came to a resolution, that in consequence of the depressed state of agriculture, and the misfortunes of the proprietors, who could neither pay their taxes nor almost anything else, we would reduce the schoolmasters' salaries to half the amount after the present year, and that the people must pay them themselves. At the same time, we made ample provision for the children of any that were really poor. Whoever brought a letter from any magistrate or clergyman to the master, to say, "This is the child of a poor person," was to be admitted free; and a copy of this regulation was directed to be sent to the Lord Bishop. It was quite within our knowledge, that people earning 10*s.* or 15*s.* a week would pretend to be poor, and send their children to get education for nothing.

4776. Do you know many instances in which the negroes have paid for the benefit of religious instruction and education?—Yes, particularly amongst the dissenters. On the estate on which I have lived there was a church built by the liberal proprietor of the estate 11 years ago, exclusively for the benefit of his slaves; and latterly, when it was enlarged, the black congregation who attended it put down 57*l.* sterling towards the enlargement of it.

4777. How are the aged and infirm taken care of?—They live on the estate for nothing; they are never charged rent.

4778. Who provides for the maintenance and care of the invalids, the aged and infirm?—Their relations generally, and many of them, although they are not working upon the estate, are perfectly able to go to the provision ground and work for themselves.

4779. Are they in any instance provided for by the proprietor?—They are supported by his lands, certainly; they live rent free upon the land.

4780. Have you anything in the nature of a poor law in Jamaica?—Not exactly like the poor law in England; the vestries of the parish have to provide for the poor; but we have had no poor yet that were slaves, I believe. The people who are considered poor in Jamaica, at least in the country parishes, are those who were free previously to emancipation, particularly the poor people of colour. I do not think in the whole parish of St. Thomas-in-the East we have had 10 that are called paupers of those that were slaves; but the time will come when it will be necessary to provide funds for the purpose.

4781. At present you neither have a poor law, nor do you find it necessary?—We provide for all that is necessary. But those that are poor are not those who were slaves; they are still independent, in a great measure.

4782. How do you provide for those paupers of whom you speak?—According to their wants; some have 2*s.* a week, some 1*s.* 6*d.*; but it is impossible for me to answer that.

4783. From what fund?—The taxes of the parish. I suppose that our poor's roll from money raised by taxes, is from 300*l.* to 400*l.* a year, or more.

4784. Are the payments to those poor people out of the parish taxes regulated by any law?—Some get more than others; some get 1*s.*, some 2*s.* a week, some get 3*s.*, according to their wants.

4785. Is there any law requires the parish to provide for the maintenance of paupers?—Yes; one passed many years ago.

4786. Have you known any inconvenience to arise in Jamaica from the practice of what is called squatting; the negroes taking possession illegally of uncultivated land?—It does not consist with my own knowledge, because the people with us preferred to do what they are able to do, to purchase land in the cultivated and civilised part of the parish, instead of going back into the woods.

4787. Are there adequate laws to prevent any such practice of settling in the woods, and clearing land for themselves?—I cannot state distinctly; there may be.

4788. Have you been in the habit of using machinery to any large extent?—Yes, the plough is now extending very much. I have used the plough on the estate for thirty years, and it is extending fast on other estates; but the proprietors cannot purchase cattle for the plough. I know that many proprietors have a desire to adopt the plough, and the attorney writes to the proprietor in England: "We can plough, but we must have cattle, of course;" and I know many cases where the answer has been that they cannot purchase them.

4789. Is the use of other machinery increasing?—Not much; there is some for carrying canes to the mill, where the situation of the mill is such as to admit of it.

4790. Is the land of Jamaica generally fertile?—Some parts of it, and some parts quite the contrary.

4791. How many years are you able to ratoon the canes upon the most fertile lands in Jamaica?—From 10 to 15 years.

4792. Upon the least fertile, where sugar-cane is grown, how many years?—Not two; one ratoon scarcely pays.

4793. How many years do you ratoon upon the Golden Grove estate?—From six to ten.

4794. How many hogsheads of sugar to the acre do you reckon a good crop?—At the present time, if we get a hogshead an acre we are satisfied.

4795. What is the weight of a hogshead of sugar in Jamaica?—Those on Golden Grove are about 17 cwt. when they come here; they are about 19 cwt. when they are shipped; but the custom-house return will show that; they are not larger than usual. There are some in Jamaica much less, and there are some larger. On one of the estates I have mentioned, they make them smaller on account of the length and badness of the road down to the wharf.

4796. Does not inconvenience arise from the weight of the hogshead varying?—Each estate stands by itself in that respect; but the size of our hogsheads at Golden Grove is the same that it has been for 20 years.

4797. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Is there any confusion and bad feeling prevalent among the negroes at the present time?—No, except a want of inclination to work; their conduct is in every other respect as good as you could expect from a community like that.

4798. Is there a wholesome understanding between the negro and the planter at the present time?—Yes.

4799. Viscount *Howick.*] Is there any greater disinclination in the negro to work than is usually found among other descriptions of men, who do not want to work if they can obtain all they desire without increased exertion?—I never knew any class of labourers in the same position as they are in; they are so independent that we need not be surprised at their not working, for they have no occasion to do it. In my knowledge of the world, I know of no labouring population in the same condition, and therefore I cannot compare them with any other class of labourers in anything like a similar situation.

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4800. Was not the effect of emancipation to give suddenly to the free labourers an enormous increase of wages, which enabled them to live with a much smaller amount of labour than they had been accustomed to perform, as well as they had been accustomed to live?—Yes, and a great deal better.

4801. And in most cases, has it not been found that a very large and sudden increase of wages leads to a diminished amount of labour performed by the labourer?—According to human nature, I suppose it is the case; but I never had an opportunity of seeing it in any other country.

4802. You do not observe any proofs of a disinclination on the part of the labourers to work other than this?—They are independent; but as I stated before, their conduct in other respects is as good as you could possibly expect. They are improving every where in every thing except industry; that is all we complain of, and nothing else. The best feeling has existed since about October 1839 between labourer and employer. The laws are justly administered; there is a kindly feeling exists. We are not harassed by complaints in the way we were before, and all we require is labour.

4803. From the Return which has been put in by Mr. Burge, it appears that a very considerable amount of parochial taxes is levied in Jamaica; can you state for what purposes that revenue is raised?—Yes; in the first place there are the churches, chapels, and schools; that is a considerable item. The printed documents will show those things. Then there are the roads, the prisons, and the poor, with others I cannot at present remember.

4804. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Does any inducement occur to you by which you could stimulate the industry of the negroes?—Nothing.

4805. Does there appear to be among them any desire for additional comforts and luxuries?—Yes, very fortunately for us there is; and we do all we can to encourage it for our own sakes as well as theirs.

4806. May you not look forward to the growth of that feeling for the future production of a disposition to industry?—It is to be hoped so, but that is matter of doubt; in the meantime the estates are suffering for want of labour. In the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East there are a great number of very poor estates, and the proprietors entertained the hope when freedom came, that, although they might lose money for a year or two, after that things would settle down, and they would be able to carry on cultivation. That hope is as far from being realized as ever.

4807. Viscount *Howick.*] Can you state what is the constitution of the body by which the parochial expenditure is levied and managed?—The parochial taxes are levied by justices of the peace appointed by the Governor's Commissioners and 10 vestrymen, chosen annually by the tax payers; the head of the Board is the custos or chief magistrate for the time; there must be six vestrymen and two magistrates present, otherwise the Board cannot proceed to business; the rector is also a constituent part of the body.

4808. They impose the taxes and superintend the expenditure?—Yes, they vote all the moneys.

4809. They are elected by all the persons paying taxes?—The same persons vote for vestrymen who vote for members of the assembly or coroners, and there must be 10 vestrymen elected every year; there are two churchwardens and 10 vestrymen.

4810. What is the qualification of an elector for the vestrymen and for the members of the assembly?—A freehold worth 6*l.* a year, or a tax payer to the amount of 3*l.*, or a rent payer of 30*l.*

4811. Have many of the negroes obtained the right of voting?—A great many; several thousands.

4812. But not so many as to constitute the majority of the constituency?—If they were all recorded and to go to the poll, there would be a majority, I have no doubt.

4813. Do you anticipate considerable changes in the character of the vestries, and also in the House of Assembly, in consequence of the acquisition of the franchise by the negroes?—I consider there will be a great change, unless the election franchise is raised.

4814. Are the parochial taxes a considerable burthen upon a sugar estate?—Very much so; in some cases they have been enormous, especially where they have expended much for the public buildings.

4815. Do

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4815. Do you think, from the manner in which the parochial taxes are at present levied, that they press much upon the negroes who have acquired property?—Almost nothing.

4816. Do you think any good would arise from an alteration in the nature of the taxation, so as to make it press more upon the negroes and less upon the sugar estates?—As far as justice to all classes goes, it would be a great advantage, and it will be necessary before any long period.

4817. Do you think if a larger proportion of the parochial and public taxation fell directly upon the negro, it would give him increased motives to industry?—Yes; the more expenses he is at, there will be a greater motive to him to work, unquestinably, to pay those expenses.

4818. He could not obtain the comforts and conveniences of life to which he has been accustomed, without a greater amount of labour, and therefore it would be an inducement to him to give more labour, in order to obtain more wages from the planter?—Yes, to a certain extent; but that would not make up for anything like the deficiency of labour: perhaps two days of labour in a year would then pay all his taxes, or even if they were raised to any reasonable amount, it would not come to anything more than a week's labour, if so much.

4819. On the other hand, it would be a material relief to the planter in the sugar cultivation if there were such a change in the taxation?—Unquestionably it would.

4820. Would a change of that sort be one of the measures to which you would look as a means of diminishing the difficulties which now press upon the planter?—Yes, it would be some assistance to him.

4821. Would there be any difficulty in arranging such a change?—I think not.

4822. Do you think there would be any difficulty in raising a portion of the money which is required for parochial purposes, and also for the public purposes of the island, by something in the nature of a rate upon the provision grounds, for instance; instead of the existing taxes?—It would be of use, certainly.

4823. Would there be any difficulty in arranging such a mode of raising the necessary revenue?—At first there would be some difficulty, but I think they could soon be brought into it. I have found them in many cases, with regard to their land, very ready to pay their taxes, and anxious to get their tax account rendered for their land; but the amount of it was very trifling, not a shilling probably.

4824. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the amount of uncultivated land in Jamaica?—It is merely a guess, but I suppose three millions of acres.

4825. And you contemplate so large an immigration as 50,000 to supply what you conceive to be the present deficiency of labour?—Yes, within the next three or four years.

4826. How do you propose to ensure the continuous labour of those immigrants, there being that amount of uncultivated land in the colony?—I do not know how to ensure it, but the more there are we have the better chance of getting labour. And there is a great part of that three millions of acres that I should hope they would not be desirous of going to, and leave the more cultivated parts of the island.

4827. Upon whom would you propose to cast the expense of this large immigration?—I should say that as the island is so valuable to the mother country, they should pay part of the expense, and the island another part, as both parties would gain by it; the former a great deal, as so much is got by duty on our produce.

4828. In equal proportions?—I would say, yes.

4829. Is it your opinion that all the colonies where there is a want of labour should also call upon the mother country to bear a moiety of the expense of immigration?—Other colonies may speak for themselves; I cannot give an opinion about that, I never was in any other; but if those colonies are a benefit to Great Britain, Great Britain ought to bear a part of the expense, and assist us in the distress we are now in from the great and blessed change of freedom, I have no hesitation in considering that the Government should assist in relieving us from the disastrous effects of that change which every good man must be glad to see taking place in the way it has done, with quietness and regularity, and followed with so great improvement in the condition of the people.

4830. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] Would not the taxation which has been suggested produce great irritation and dissatisfaction amongst the negro population?—Not if they found that the law was rigidly and impartially enforced,

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which is now the case, and has been the case since Sir Charles Metcalfe went there; and I beg to add, as I stated in an official Report to the Governor, "there are no people in the world more afraid of the law than the negroes are when they find it promptly and impartially administered."

4831. What would be the amount of revenue that might be derived from this taxation?—It is impossible for me to say; I cannot form even an idea.

4832. Mr. *Hawes.*] You spoke of St. Thomas-in-the-East as being a district which was suffering considerably; is it improving now, as compared with the first two or three years of freedom, or not?—It is better now than it was in the first and second years of freedom. From the time when Sir Charles Metcalfe came there they have been doing better, but still the labourers are dropping off from their work, and almost none have any regard for the interests of the estates.

4833. There is a Report of yours dated March 1st, 1841, in which the following passage occurs:—"The rural population continue to purchase land, and establish themselves as small freeholders. In some parts of the precincts I hear complaints that many of those who have purchased freeholds work very little on estates; but *I cannot say it applies to this district, so far as my observation has gone.*" And your last remark is printed in italics, which it is presumed was underlined by you, to give it additional force?—That is my Report, and if the Committee will refer to my Report, dated 1st September, they will perceive that I give another statement, and express my regret at being obliged to give a different Report; will you be pleased to read it?

4834. In the subsequent Report you say, "In my former Reports I stated that in this district the want of labour was not increased by the people having purchased lands; I regret to say the case is different now; for here, as throughout the precinct, they remain idle at their homes much more than they did"?—Yes; in my former Report I stated that the cultivation had not suffered from that cause; then that document now before the Committee in September states the reverse.

4835. Then, your opinion appears to have varied between the 1st of March 1841 and the 1st of September 1841?—Yes, because the people caused it to vary; I was bound to state the truth, and I stated it in the island where the fact was known; as the conduct of the people altered, so of course did my Report.

4836. You are prepared to state that the want of labour is the cause of the diminished produce of Jamaica?—I cannot give any other. I beg leave to observe, that in the very Report now quoted, I find I say, "The necessity for an increase of black labourers is every day becoming greater; and the young people made free in 1834, and since, are brought up in entire idleness; not more than one-third of them attend school." Then follows the paragraph which has just been read. And I wish to state that these Reports were made by me in Jamaica, to the Governor of the island, when it was not known that I should ever be here, and where, if there was any incorrectness in it, it would immediately be detected; but Sir Charles Metcalfe received them, and transmitted them as usual to the Colonial Office.

4837. In the same Report you state that the labourers are working more by the job than they formerly did?—Yes, I have stated that in my evidence; "The labourers generally are working more by the job than they would formerly do, although some are still determined to work only by the day, when they do not give equal to five hours of fair work." That was my Report on the 1st of September last, which I am willing to confirm up to the present day.

4838. That Report to which reference has been made appears to differ from a report of a stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Price, on the 15th of March 1841. He says in that report, that "New lands have been opened, and an increased spirit of enterprise manifestly seems to actuate all parties connected and interested in the cultivation of the soil." Is that contrary to your opinion?—That is at Manchioneal, a different district of our parish, and I am not disposed to admit the correctness of that.

4839. The fact that new lands have been opened you do not admit?—"Some new lands have been opened:" if he means by that, new lands by planters, I decidedly say no, for they cannot keep up the land already in cultivation. If he means that the negroes are buying land and cultivating provisions, my Report states the same; but if he means new land by the planters, it is decidedly erroneous, to give it the mildest term.

4840. Taking your opinion to be that the colony is falling back, you look to the importation of 50,000 labourers as a means of restoring it?—Yes.

4841. With

4841. With a corresponding proportion of women and children?—Yes.

4842. What provision is the colony prepared to make for such an immigration upon their arrival within the next three or four years, for their lodging?—I will state what we have done for those who have already come. When the immigrants arrive, a planter who wishes to have them goes to the agent, and he gets a number who may be disposed to go, and we make houses for them, and give them provisions. My agreement, when I got those Africans, with them, and the agent appointed by the Governor, was to give them a shilling a day, and provisions, houses, medicine, and medical attendance for 12 months.

4843. How much lower is that than what you now pay to free labourers in Jamaica?—I soon persuaded them to work by the job.

4844. What is the amount of the difference between what you promised to give to the imported Africans, and what you now give to the free labourers?—Taking the whole cost, it was fully as much.

4845. Do you mean to say that the wages you have just stated which you promised to give to the imported African, are the same amount precisely which you now pay to the free labourer?—I do not say precisely.

4846. What are the wages you now pay to a free labourer, and what is the difference between what you now pay, and what you promised to pay to the imported African?—We pay from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, and sometimes more; they may make 2*s.*, either a Creole or an African.

4847. Do you pay from 1*s.* to 2*s.* to a free labourer now for one task?—That depends upon what the task is.

4848. Assuming a task to be 70 cane-holes, as you stated in your former evidence, what do you pay a free labourer for that?—Two shillings.

4849. What do you propose to pay the African for that?—The African gets the same.

4850. What do you propose to pay him?—We never dig any cane-holes upon the estate to which we have taken the liberated Africans.

4851. Will you state distinctly what is the difference you intend to make between the wages now payable to a free labourer in Jamaica, and the wages to be paid to the imported labourer from Africa?—I should say that 1*s.* a day to the African newly imported, with provisions and a house, was as much as any planter could give, and that is what we gave them; medicine and medical attendance and 1*s.* sterling; if they work by the job they get the same as others; surely it must be evident that an African just imported cannot do the same kind of work as a Creole who has been accustomed to it from his early days; he requires time to learn.

4852. Mr. *Howard.*] Do you propose to introduce 50,000 additional labourers in order to bring the uncultivated land into cultivation?—No, without that; only for the land hitherto in cultivation.

4853. Viscount *Chelsea.*] In the event of an importation of 50,000 additional efficient labourers, would there be in the island a labouring population much more than adequate to the present wants of the colony?—I think not; because there will be so many more still drawing off from labour who have the power to do so.

4854. Allowing for the present labourers giving the quantity of labour that you would expect?—The same as they were doing when I left the island, and for some time before that; if I could be assured that no more would draw off from labour, I might say that less would do; but taking the advantages they have into consideration, and the desire they have to draw off from labour upon the estates, and bearing testimony at the same time to their improved conduct in other respects, I have no reason to think they will cease to draw off from labour and become independent, and then less than 50,000 will not enable the proprietors to carry on the cultivation of estates in a manner something like what it was at the commencement of freedom.

4855. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] What is the feeling among the negro population with respect to the question of immigration?—I did not see any strong feeling among them on the subject; but, of course, they do not like it; they would rather none came. I can give some proof of the moral effect that even the introduction of a limited number has, if the Committee wish.

4856. If the feeling is strong upon the part of the negro population against immigration, is it your opinion that such an immigration as 50,000, in three or four years, would not tend to diminish whatever confidence may at present remain in the minds of the negroes with reference to the planters?—I should

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have no fear of that, looking at the immense population of the island of Jamaica. That confidence is every day increasing; that is to say, since the better times we have had the last year or two, the distrust which existed has decreased; and there is another thing, that they are every day increasing in instruction and religious knowledge, which, I should hope, at the end of three or four years, will still further improve their conduct.

4857. Would there not, almost necessarily, be a natural prejudice upon the part of the negroes against so many as 50,000 immigrants being introduced?—No; looking at the great number in the island, I do not apprehend that that feeling would be any stronger on the part of the negroes, than it is on the part of the English or the Scotch towards the Irish people, who come over to take work from them.

4858. On the estates which you have managed, have you resorted to the truck system?—Not at all. On the largest estate there is a shop or store; but I believe that since freedom there never was a farthing's worth of provisions bought or sold upon the system. The people, for their own benefit, requested it might be established. They take their money on the Saturday morning, at the boiling-house, and they either go to the store upon the estate, or they go where they like. I was too well aware of the mischief of the truck system to allow it to be even attempted.

4859. You say there has been no census of the island?—No; notice was given by one of the members of the Assembly for an Act for the purpose, but it could not be done without considerable expense, and it was found that it must be waived till something could be done to enable the proprietors to pay the necessary expense. One of the members for Kingston gave notice to bring in a Bill, but it was put to him that the expense would be so great that it could not be done at present.

4860. Would it be very desirable that a census should be taken?—It would be, certainly; but it would be very difficult, independently of the expense. The longer it is put off, the more the difficulty will be diminished, because the negroes would be excessively averse to such a thing at present.

4861. Are there not many parts of Jamaica where labour may be obtained for fair wages?—Yes, there are some; it depends upon the locality, as my previous answer stated; I have stated two estates under my own management, where we can get it at less wages, but one of those estates is a small estate. Last year the outlay was 300 *l.* more than the crop sold for, without speaking of the interest of money; but there they pay less wages; they are in the interior far from other estates; and with a number of small settlements round them, and when the people wanted a little money they would go there to work, and get what they wanted.

4862. Upon what do you found your opinion that 50,000 immigrants would be sufficient, and not more than sufficient?—Of course it is only an opinion. It is from seeing how the labourers are enabled to fall off and become independent within the last four years. It is from the immense decrease in the crops of the parish, and the circumstance, that I have no doubt the negroes will continue to draw off as they become independent. Sometimes those that have bought land come and work upon the estate, certainly, but that is only when they like, and in crop-time the want of labour is most pernicious. Any impediment in taking off a sugar crop is far more serious than in cutting the crop in England; there is no comparison.

4863. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is there an adequate capital to be found in the island to meet the expenses of immigration?—I do not know that there is much in the island, but if we can get immigrants, I have no doubt gentlemen in England connected with Jamaica will send capital. When the proprietors see that there is a probability of the cultivation flourishing, capital will be found; but at present many of them cannot even buy stock to plough, from that cause.

4864. Mr. *Howard.*] Have any estates been sold in Jamaica lately?—A good many have been offered for sale, but people would not buy them.

4865. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Did the present rise of wages prevail generally throughout the island immediately after the cessation of the apprenticeship?—No, I do not think it did.

4866. Were not there many proprietors who, at the cessation of the apprenticeship, when the wages rose, held out, and refused to give the high rate of wages, and who are now cultivating their cane lands with profit, in consequence

of having refused to give the present high rate of wages?—I do not know any such. I have known some that did not give in; they rather stopped altogether, because the demand was most exorbitant. In other cases they were obliged to yield to the blacks in order to prevent immediate ruin.

4867. Have you known any who refused to give in, who are now cultivating their properties at a profit, in consequence of having followed that line of conduct?—No, I do not know any such.

4868. Are you aware that it is stated in the Report of Mr. Fife, a stipendiary magistrate?—He lives in quite a different part of Jamaica. I can only speak of my own particular district, which is 75 miles in length or thereabouts.

4869. *Chairman.*] Is the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East 75 miles in length?—The precinct of St. Thomas-in-the-East and St. David is nearly so. The two together are under one chief magistrate, and form one regiment of militia. Altogether it is 75 miles from the top of St. David's Mountains to the Portland Line.

4870. Mr. *Barclay.*] You attribute the diminished produce of Jamaica to the insufficiency of continuous labour. Comparing the present time with the period of slavery, what is the extent of the diminution?—Taking it for the whole island, about half, but much more than the half of what it was some years ago, or partly to that and partly to want of labour.

4871. Can you attribute the deficiency to droughts?—In some measure.

4872. Taking one year with another, have the droughts been greater within the last four years than they were before?—The year 1840 was a drier year than I ever experienced; but last year was a favourable year. There is a fine crop upon the ground now; but I have every reason to expect that it will not be taken off in proper time on several estates.

4873. What has been the consequence to the proprietors of the diminished produce of their estates?—Those that have nothing else to live upon are either deeply in debt, or must soon be ruined, and the estates thrown up.

4874. Are the Committee to understand that the proprietors receive no revenue whatever from the estates?—Many of them. I know two estates in our parish, one of which is considered a very fine estate; the attorney of the estate told me, last January, that the accounts had come from London, showing that those two estates had sunk 5,000 *l.*; (I suppose he meant 3,000 *l.* sterling) last year.

4875. If such should continue to be the case, will those estates be abandoned?—One of them must, unless labour can be got sufficiently, and at a reasonable rate, such that the price of what the labour produces will pay the proprietor.

4876. Do you think it probable that many estates will really be abandoned?—I feel certain they must be.

4877. Will they be offered for sale?—Yes.

4878. Will persons be found to purchase the estates?—I should think not, to be continued as estates. I can give the Committee a case in point: a proprietor in St. Thomas-in-the-East has advertised his estate for sale; it has its own wharf, which of course lessens the expense; but nobody would buy it; and he then stuck up notices that he was going to cut it up and sell it in lots to the negroes, and sell off his machinery and works. That has taken place just three months ago; he could not get it sold as an estate.

4879. Did the negroes purchase the lots?—It was just beginning when I left; whenever they have had an opportunity they have purchased.

4880. Do you think that much greater economy could be introduced into the cultivation of estates in Jamaica by means of ploughs and horse hoes and other machinery, so as to reduce the price of sugar materially?—I have no doubt improvements could be made in that way; at the same time there has been as great a reduction in the expenses in the last three years as could well be made in every thing but wages, which we have not the power of reducing; the wages paid in some cases are more than the produce brings; the documents in London will show that that is so.

4881. You have stated that of late years the estates have not paid the proprietors any revenue, but, on the contrary, have been attended with loss; what would be the effect upon those estates, and upon property generally in Jamaica, if a further reduction in the price of sugar in England were to take place?—They must be thrown up sooner if a further reduction takes place. For instance, it is the poorest estates that will first go. Then if produce continue at the present price, without any additional labour, a certain number of estates may be

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still kept on; but if prices fall further, there must be a further number thrown out, according to the quality of the land upon the estate.

4882. What would be the effect upon the labourers in Jamaica of a reduction in the price of sugar in England?—I must make the same answer as I did about throwing up estates. The labourers must suffer, because when the estates are thrown up, they can no longer enjoy the advantages, and get the great wages they now get and be able to purchase the luxuries they now enjoy, which the planters, instead of discouraging, encourage them in the desire of as much as possible.

4883. Do you think it is probable that Jamaica will ever be able to compete with the slave colonies, Cuba and Porto Rico, at an equal rate of duty?—My impression is that they never can. When I was in Cuba on the 16th of April last, there was very fine sugar there ready for sale at 10*s.* a cwt. That I saw myself.

4884. Do you think there is any chance of free-labour sugar ever being able to compete with slave-labour sugar?—I cannot see how there is the slightest chance.

4885. Mr. *Hawes.*] Were the estates of which you spoke as being abandoned, estates heavily mortgaged?—I do not know.

4886. Were they the estates of absentees?—Chiefly.

4887. With regard to your own estate is that in as critical a condition as the other estates?—No; the one I live on is quite clear of debt.

4888. That is thriving?—Yes, to a considerable extent, compared with others.

4889. To what do you attribute the difference?—There are particular circumstances attending it; it has advantages that many other estates have not.

4890. What are those advantages?—Good soil in the first instance.

4891. Are there no other estates having a similar advantage of good soil?—There are eight, so far as soil goes.

4892. Are they all thriving?—Some of these are doing very well, and others pretty well.

4893. The soil being equal?—In some of them the soil is even better.

4894. How is it that they do not all thrive equally with your own?—I cannot speak as to others; they are all under their own managers, and the proprietors are in England.

4895. There is a great difference in the management of estates similarly situated?—In the whole of that vale there is not much difference. But I must be excused from stating the reason of the difference, because I might, perhaps, be wrong, and have no business with others.

4896. You have stated that any great reduction in the price of sugar would materially affect the property in Jamaica; what price do you conceive to be a necessary price in order to maintain the cultivation which now exists?—I cannot exactly answer; it will depend upon the rate of wages.

4897. Take it at the existing state of things in Jamaica?—Perhaps the proprietor should get from 25*s.* to 35*s.* a cwt. But that is a question more likely to be answered correctly by a merchant than by me, as a planter, for we have nothing to do with the accounts in London, nor the expenses or prices of produce here. I only say this at random, not being aware that such a question would be put. I am not so competent to give it as a merchant or a proprietor.

4898. From 25*s.* to 35*s.* upon the spot?—Yes, clear of all duties and charges; but it is a question that I do not pretend to be master of.

4899. Should you be satisfied with an average of 30*s.* upon the spot?—I dare say I should; but it would depend upon circumstances, especially the wages to be paid.

4900. With reference to the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East, the cultivation has been improved by the introduction of the plough and harrow?—Yes.

4901. And a better system of farming has been introduced?—The use of the plough is increasing as fast as can be expected, but not nearly so much as it would, if the proprietors could afford to buy cattle.

4902. If the proprietors are unable to buy cattle, how would they be able to advance capital to effect the great immigration you propose?—Because, if they get the immigration, they might then get assistance. If they saw that the Government was determined to assist Jamaica, they might be able to get money advanced, which they cannot get when they see ruin staring them in the face.

4903. You

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4903. You think that the prospect of immigration would give credit to Jamaica, and enable you to raise money?—I should have a better chance in London of raising 10,000 *l.*, with immigration fairly begun, than I can do now.

4904. But you consider it important that there should be a price of sugar, amounting to nearly 30*s.*, upon the spot?—Yes; but I beg to say, that merchants are far better able than I am to speak about that; and the reason of that is this: we know the island expenses, but we have nothing to do with the amount or produce of the sales here, nor with the expense incurred in sending out things. I happen to know, by mere chance, that on the small estate I mentioned before, the produce of last year fell 297 *l.* short of the expenses paid in getting it.

4905. Are you a proprietor yourself?—Not now.

4906. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] You state that you have been lately in Cuba, can you state whether the soil of Cuba is superior to that of Jamaica?—I did not see the soil, but I understand that it is amazingly fine; I understand that there is land there where they never have occasion to replant; that the canes you put in, will produce sugar an immense number of years without replanting.

4907. May not the superiority of their soil enable them to grow sugar much cheaper, so that the cheapness of their sugar may not be entirely attributable to the superior economy of slave labour over free labour?—It no doubt must be operated upon by both causes, the getting slave labour cheap, and also the richness of the soil, because they have no occasion to replant, as we have in Jamaica.

4908. When you state that you do not conceive that free labour can ever compete with slave labour, do you mean free labour in Jamaica, with the soil of Jamaica, against slave labour in Cuba, with the soil of Cuba, or do you say that free labour cannot compete with slave labour upon equally good soils?—I do not see that it can compete even upon equally good soils. It would depend so much upon the disposition of the people in those other colonies when they got free, but in Cuba certainly the superiority of the soil is itself so great, that I should have no hesitation in saying that even supposing the slaves in Cuba were set free, Cuba would have an immense advantage over Jamaica, from the richness of the soil. It cannot be questioned that that must necessarily have very great effect.

4909. What is the estimated cost per head of importing immigrants into Jamaica from the coast of Africa?—I happen to know that some that were sent out as I understand by a society in London came to about 14 *l.* or 15 *l.* a head; but Mr. Barclay, one of the members for our parish, and who was the commissioner who went to Sierra Leone, made out a statement showing that, including the victualling and everything, it could be done for 6 *l.* 10*s.* per head; which he sent to Sir Charles Metcalfe, and which, I think, is incorporated in the proceedings of the House of Assembly. That is a comparison made by Mr. Barclay, who came to England, and was allowed by the Government to go to Sierra Leone, and from Sierra Leone he went to Jamaica, and that is the sum he gave in as the total expense of everything; and he stated, that after chartering the vessels and victualling them, making ample allowance for the length of the passage, it could be done for 6 *l.* 10*s.* sterling in future.

4910. Mr. *Hawes.*] You are the manager of an estate?—Yes; of several, as attorney.

4911. Does it rest with you to import the supplies necessary for the estates, such as provisions and clothing?—Whatever is sent for, the proprietors generally send.

4912. To whom do you address your demands for those supplies?—To the proprietor.

4913. Are the purchases made by the agency of the merchant or broker?—Yes.

4914. Do you know anything of the commissions charged upon those purchases?—No.

4915. Are there no charges of that kind made to the proprietors in Jamaica?—No; when I get supplies out for any estates, they send me the invoices of the articles; the freight is paid in London, but further than that there is no charge, except mere wharfage, the same as there would be in London, and an import duty of three per cent.

4916. The manager's salary comprehends the whole charge on his part?—Yes; the manager's accounts include his salary or commissions.

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4917. The attorney also has a salary?—The person who is called a manager in the Windward Islands, is an overseer in Jamaica. I am the attorney. I have been upon the estate 30 years next month; and the proprietor of that fine property is now in London.

4918. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Have you any proprietors resident upon their estates in that district?—Not many.

4919. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] When freedom took place, were the estates over which you had the management prepared with cash to pay their labourers?—Yes.

4920. Was that generally the case in Jamaica?—I believe so; at one time silver was very scarce, so much so that they paid 10 per cent. for it. I can state that the people on the estate I mentioned have never missed their money one day, although such a thing might occur under any management when silver was so scarce; because I have known the proprietors obliged to pay five or six, or at one time, in the year before last, even ten per cent. for silver, because they would not take paper money.

4921. Then the cases where they were not provided with cash were only the exceptions?—Only the exceptions, and these very few, at least in my parish.

4922. *Chairman.*] Have there been many complaints lately on the score of wages not being regularly paid in money?—Not that I know of; because the people know that if they do not get their wages, they have only to go to the magistrates and they would get justice; and if the magistrates did not do them justice, they would go to the Governor and assert their rights.

4923. You were asked with regard to the wages you propose to pay to the African immigrants; did you understand that question to refer to the African immigrants now upon the estate, or to any future immigration that you may be able to obtain?—To those that I have taken.

4924. What do you suppose you should have to pay to future immigrants, in the event of their coming in insufficient numbers?—I cannot tell; that will depend upon circumstances.

4925. Did you not say that you could afford to pay the present rate of wages, high as it is, provided you secure an adequate supply of labour?—Yes; we should not object to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* instead of 1 *s.* if we only had an equivalent for it.

4926. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you mean, that if you had a larger number of labourers, working regularly, there would be such an amount of produce raised, that that would enable you to carry on the cultivation profitably, because the fixed expenses of the estate would press heavily upon you?—Yes; if I understood the question, it was, whether the wages I mentioned would be considered too much, provided we got a day's work in return. I say we would not consider it too much if we got labour for it; but where they are paid by the day (this is what nobody can contradict), they will not give you perhaps six pennyworth of work, or seven pennyworth, or three pennyworth; and I have often said to our people, "I would not take you for 5 *d.* a day, because, if I did, I should not get 2 ½ *d.* worth of work." But they often earn 2 *s.* when I get them to take a job. In some cases, for instance, on Saturday, I gave 2 *s.* when I wanted work done.

4927. *Chairman.*] Have you known in Jamaica the mode of letting land which is called the metaric system, resorted to?—No; I have not heard of it at all.

4928. Viscount *Howick.*] Are horses and cattle plentiful in Jamaica?—Yes. There are scarcely any horses used for agricultural purposes. The negroes have a great many horses among them, independently of what the white people have.

4929. Do you use chiefly mules and oxen for agricultural purposes?—Yes.

4930. Is there an abundant supply of stock of that description?—If the country flourishes there is plenty of land for pens; but at present the pen-keepers, what in England would be called the grazing farmers, are suffering very much; cattle are so cheap that they cannot be sold at anything like a price to remunerate them for the expense of raising them.

4931. Are they raised much cheaper than they were previously to emancipation?—Not immediately previously to emancipation; but I recollect for 20 years the regular price for pen stock was 20 guineas, that is 32 *l.* 10 *s.* of old currency, as the merchants' accounts in London will show; but now it is 22 *l.* 10 *s.* old currency, and I have known as low as 18 *l.* old currency, that is 10 *l.* 16 *s.* sterling.

4932. Have

4932. Have the number of stock increased considerably?—I cannot tell that; the returns of the House of Assembly will show that.

4933. Do you know what the comparative price of stock in Jamaica and in Hayti is?—I do not; I should think in Hayti it would be cheaper, but I cannot take upon myself to say decidedly.

4934. Do you think the planters in general take sufficient pains in increasing the quantity of stock kept upon the estates to manure the crops as much as they require?—Some planters do; they differ much the same as farmers here; some do it, and some do not; but generally on the sugar estates they do not raise stock. Few of the estates have the power of raising cattle, and others are limited in their power to purchase cattle. But as all the labour is done by either cattle or mules, the planter is obliged to keep a certain proportion of cattle and mules for the work, and from them of course he does what he can to get all the manure that is possible.

4935. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is there any importation from St. Domingo of cattle or provisions?—There has not been of provisions; and I do not think any importation of cattle is allowed, nor any intercourse.

4936. Mr. *Barclay.*] Where do you get your mules from?—Some are raised in the island, and others come from Spanish America.

4937. What is the price of a good mule for agricultural purposes?—Just now they pay about 20 *l.* to 25 *l.* sterling.

4938. Mr. *Hawes.*] What prevents free intercourse between Jamaica and St. Domingo at present?—There is a law to prohibit it, a British Act.

William Burge, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

4939. Mr. *Hawes.*] WHAT law regulates the trade between Jamaica and St. Domingo?—An Act was passed in 1812, 52 Geo. 3, c. 35, which prohibits any intercourse between that part of St. Domingo which belonged to France, and Jamaica.

4940. Is that a local Act?—No, it is an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

4941. Do you know the grounds upon which that law was passed?—The prohibition must have been considered expedient with reference to the proximity of St. Domingo to Jamaica and the population there, and the circumstances under which they had acquired their freedom.

4942. That prohibition of all intercourse has continued to the present time?—It has.

4943. To what extent is that prohibition carried?—It excludes all communication from St. Domingo to Jamaica.

4944. That is to say, labourers would not be admitted, and provisions would not be admitted, nor any of the productions of St. Domingo?—Just so.

4945. With regard to the vessel, is there any penalty, supposing a vessel should be caught in importing goods into Jamaica from St. Domingo?—The vessel and goods are forfeited.

4946. In your opinion is it desirable to continue that prohibition?—My opinion is that that prohibition may now advantageously cease; and I believe it was in the contemplation of the late Government, as I believe it is in the contemplation of the present Government, to remove that prohibition. Understanding it to be so, I asked that, as the removal of the prohibition was a very important measure, it would be calculated to continue the good feeling subsisting between the Colonial Legislature and the Government, if, before it was brought forward I was afforded an opportunity of comunicating with my constituents in Jamaica upon the subject.

4947. Did you so communicate with them?—Yes. The extreme irregularity in the mail communication between Jamaica and England has prevented me from yet receiving any answer to my communication.

4948. Have there been any representations, at any time, made by the merchants of Jamaica, as to the impolicy of that Act?—I think there was some representation made by the merchants; but it was not thought right by the late Government to take any step without a reference to the agent of Jamaica. In 1838, just after the termination of the apprenticeship, this representation was made. I thought, and it was thought in Jamaica, not desirable to adopt the measure at that time.

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4949. Have you any reason to apprehend opposition, on the part of the colony, to the repeal of the prohibition?—I have not.

4950. Mr. *Barclay*.] Is there much intercourse between Jamaica and Cuba?—Yes.

4951. There is no obstacle in the way of free intercourse?— None.

Henry Lowndes, Esq. called in; and Examined.

H. Lowndes, Esq.

4952. *Chairman*.] ARE you acquainted with the island of Jamaica?—Yes.

4953. What is the length of your residence, and what has been your occupation there?—I have been there 27 years as a planter.

4954. When did you leave the island?—On the 7th of April last.

4955. Were you the proprietor, or had you the management of any sugar plantations there?—I had the charge of eight sugar plantations, in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, both as proprietor, trustee, attorney, and lessee.

4956. You mean that you had the management of eight estates simultaneously in succession?—At present, when I left the island I had charge of eight.

4957. What proportion should you say the uncultivated land of Jamaica bears to the cultivated?—As to the land generally I could not say; but I should suppose that one half of the land formerly in canes is now out of cultivation in that part of the island I am acquainted with.

4958. How long has that large diminution of cane land taken place?—Gradually since the termination of slavery.

4959. How is that half of the former cane land, which is now out of cane cultivation, used?—As pasture.

4960. Is it still occupied by the same persons?—It belongs to the same estates.

4961. Is it the practice on those eight estates of which you have had the management for the labourers you employ to occupy a house or land belonging to the estate?—On all the estates the labourers rent houses and gardens.

4962. When you say rent, upon what terms do they occupy on your estates their houses and gardens?—They pay a rent of 1*s.* 3*d.* a week, independent of working upon the estate.

4963. Is the 1*s.* 3*d.* a week for the house and land together?—The house and garden together; the house and yard.

4964. By garden, do you mean provision ground?—No.

4965. Do they occupy provision grounds besides?—In arranging with them, I allowed them to cultivate provision ground on sufferance.

4966. Did every resident labourer occupy provision ground?—Not every one.

4967. Did every one have provision ground who desired it?—Every one who desired it.

4968. What extent of provision ground?—As much as they chose to cultivate.

4969. Did they pay rent for those provision grounds?—No.

4970. Was the 1*s.* 3*d.*, the rent of the house and garden, currency or sterling?—Sterling.

4971. Was the 1*s.* 3*d.* sterling per week rent paid under any written contract?—No.

4972. Mr. *Hawes*.] Was that 1*s.* 3*d.* for the cottage, or 1*s.* 3*d.* for each head?—1*s.* 3*d.* for the cottage, to do what they chose with it.

4973. *Chairman*.] The contract was a verbal contract?—Yes.

4974. What notice was given in case of your desiring to eject the labourer?—The same as in this country, I believe; but we never had occasion to resort to it. I believe a week's notice, as it is a weekly tenancy.

4975. When you allowed the labourer to obtain possession of the house and grounds upon this understanding, did you stipulate that he should work for you, as well as that he should pay you 1*s.* 3*d.* rent per week?—No, for they work wherever they choose.

4976. You considered that the 1*s.* 3*d.* a week rent was an adequate remuneration to you for the occupation of the premises?—I expected they would work

work for me. I told them they might work on their grounds as much as they chose; but that, in return, I expected I should have sufficient labour to keep the canes in cultivation.

4977. How did it turn out; did you find that they did work for you?—Not so well as they ought to have done.

4978. To what extent had you to complain of the neglect of work by them?—I had to reduce the cultivation one-half, at least, in some cases.

4979. Do you mean that your acreage of cane land is less by one-half what it used to be?—Yes.

4980. Within what time has that reduction taken place?—Since the end of slavery.

4981. Now you have reduced your cane land one half, do you find that the labour is sufficient fully to cultivate the other half?—It is very precarious sometimes.

4982. Do you adopt the system of not paying your labourers for any work they may perform during part of the week, unless they work for you the whole of the week?—With regard to taking off the crop, should I suffer from the cane-carrier absenting himself without reasonable cause, or any other labourers necessary to continue the work, I have always held out to them that they must be answerable for my loss if it is caused by carelessness.

4983. To what extent would you make them answerable?—I am afraid I could not carry it to any great extent; but I have had occasion in such an instance, where a person has worked a day or two, to say, I shall not pay you for your two days' labour; I have lost a great deal more than that by your absence; and they have not objected, knowing that they were in fault.

4984. Speaking generally of the labourers you employ, have you either yourself adopted the system, or do you know the system to have been adopted by others, of insisting that a labourer who begins working on the Monday morning shall go on to work for five days in the week, and that if he works for less time he shall not be paid for what he does?—In crop he is under an agreement to work during the whole crop time and not to retire without notice.

4985. How long does the crop season last?—In that district it lasts about five months.

4986. Have you a verbal contract with them, that they shall continue to work during the whole of those five months?—No; but if they have they should give notice that they are going to leave.

4987. Do you find that that understanding is adhered to by them?—Certainly, when they wish to discontinue, they give notice.

4988. How long notice?—At the end of one week they say, "Next week I do not wish to come to work," and in many instances they name another person that they have agreed should come in their place till they are able to return. It is very seldom that any of them go away without giving notice.

4989. Are the Committee to understand that you have upon the whole eight estates, which are under your management, sufficient labour for the quantity of land now in cane cultivation?—No. Often when we most want the labour we cannot get it, that is field labour; we are obliged to pay high prices, and cannot get as much done as we wish. I have been obliged to decrease the quantity of cultivation to meet the proportion of labour which I expected I should be able to get.

4990. In crop time if a labourer fails to come to work, and gives you no notice of his intention to be absent, and finds no substitute, what remedy do you adopt?—The person who overlooks the work, goes amongst the field labourers and tries to get one to fill his place; in the meantime the work must stop.

4991. What remedy have you against the labourer?—I suppose if I was to take him before the court he might be punished; but that would create dissatisfaction amongst the others, and therefore, from policy, I am obliged to overlook it.

4992. If all the labourers residing upon your estate worked for you with fair industry, should you be able to resume the cultivation of the other half of your land which you have thrown out of canes?—It would depend upon whether they put forward their whole powers; if the whole population who did work

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formerly were again to come to work, of course the land would give the same quantity of produce.

4993. Have you the same number of labourers resident upon the estate that you had formerly during slavery?—On the estate or in the neighbourhood, and those who have gone to the neighbourhood do work; but they do not work continuously.

4994. How many of those that were residing upon your estate in slavery have left it altogether and taken to other pursuits?—They have bought lands of their own. A great deal of their labour is now occupied in cultivating those lands, and building their own houses.

4995. Do the men who bought lands of their own still work for you at intervals?—Yes.

4996. Have you received any emigrants upon your estates?—No.

4997. What wages do you give per day to each class of your labourers?—Generally, according to what work they do, whenever you can get them to take it in that way.

4998. In what way are wages regulated by the work performed?—In a great many various ways; there is a great deal of work that we cannot measure.

4999. Do your labourers ordinarily work for you by the day or by the task?—I always get them to work by the task, if I can; and on some estates they will sometimes work by the task, and at other times by the day.

5000. Which is the most common practice upon the estate, by the task or by the day?—By the task, certainly.

5001. Then, when you so speak, do you include the manufacturing process; can that be done otherwise than by the day?—Some part of it can be done only by the day; some can be done by the job. On the whole eight estates the general way is to grind a certain quantity of liquor per day. The canes are ground, and the juice flows into pans; then we know the size, and give them so many, according to the size.

5002. How many hours does a day's job, in the manufacturing process, occupy the labourers?—They generally manage to make a day's work of it; but they could do it in much less time than that.

5003. How many hours could they fairly do it in?—They could do it in seven hours, I should think.

5004. What do you pay them for doing it?—Two shillings is the sum, that is half a dollar, and others not so much; but I have brought a Paper that will show what is given upon the estate. I have taken an estate that belongs to Mr. Fuller, a Member of the House of Commons. I have taken two weeks, which will show the wages for almost every description of work, except in crop time.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

(A.)

PAY BILL for KNOLLIS ESTATE, from 11th to 15th October 1841.

NAMES.	HOW EMPLOYED. Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	AMOUNT.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.
Thomas Brown	Planting canes 1 6	Planting canes – 7½	Planting canes 1 6	Trashing canes 1 6	Stocking up 1 6	– 6 7½
Johanah Francis	on Pond piece No. 1 6	on Pond piece No. 1 6	on Pond piece No. 1 6	on Breeze Mill 1 6	land on Pond –	– 6 –
Thomas Spencer	1, a' 21 chains for 1 6	1, a' 21 chains for –	1, finish & stock- 1 6	piece, 1st Return, 1 6	piece No. 2, a' 19 1 6	– 6 –
William Sans	1*s.* 6*d.* 1 6	1*s.* 6*d.* 1 6	ing up land on 1 6	a' 20 chains for 1 6	chains for 1*s.* 6*d.* –	– 6 –
Lewis Gordon	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	same piece No. 2, 1 6	1*s.* 6*d.* 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 7 6
Machora Brown	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	a' 19 chains for 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 7 6
William Cole	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	1*s.* 6*d.* 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 7 6
John Morgan	ditto 1 6	ditto – 4½	– – – –	– – – –	– – – –	– 1 4½
Francis Brown	ditto 1 6	ditto 3	ditto 1 6	– – – –	– – – –	– 3 3
Lettice Green	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 7 6
Thomas Richards	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– – – –	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 6 –
Elizabeth Brown	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 7 6
Ellen Morant	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto –	– 4 6
Letaria Knight	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– – – –	– – – –	– 7 6
Lewis Francis	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– 7 6
John Brown	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 3	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto –	– 4 3
Jane Hendry	ditto – 10½	ditto 6	– – – –	– – – –	– – – –	– 1 4½
Cecilia Barrett	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	– – – –	– – – 1 6	– 7 6
Sally Jones	– – – –	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto 1 6	ditto –	– 3 –
Thomas Blackmoor	– – – –	ditto 1 6	– – – –	– – – –	– – – –	– – 3
William Russell	– – – –	ditto 3	– – – –	– – – –	– – – –	– – 9
		– – – –	– – – –	ditto – – 9	– –	

(continued)

NAMES.	HOW EMPLOYED. Monday.	s.	d.	Tuesday.	s.	d.	Wednesday.	s.	d.	Thursday.	s.	d.	Friday.	s.	d.	AMOUNT. £.	s.	d.
Eliza M'Lean	-- Banking and	-	9	-- Banking and	-	9	-- Banking and	-	9	-- Planting corn	1	-	-- Banking and	1	-	-	4	3
Margaret Minot	trashing canes on	1	-	trashing canes on	-	9	trashing canes on	-	9	on Pond piece,	1	-	trashing canes on	-	-	-	3	6
Juno Green	Caromantee Tom	-	9	Caromantee Tom	-	6	same piece, a' 14	1	-	No. 1.	1	-	Caromantee Tom	-	9	-	4	-
Ophilia Bogle	piece, a' 14 chains	-	7½	piece, a' 14 chains	-	-	chains for 1 s. 6 d.	-	-	- - - -	-	-	piece.	-	-	-	7	1½
James Reddin	for 1 s. 6 d.	-	4½	for 1 s. 6 d.	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	4	1½
Thomas Butler Burke	- ditto - - -	-	7½	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	7	7½
Phedilia Graham	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - -	1	-	- - - -	-	-	-	2	9
Betsy Blackwood	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - -	1	-	- - - -	-	-	-	2	6
Ann Harris Lewis	- ditto - - -	-	4½	- ditto - - -	-	4½	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	-	6	-	2	9
Liddy Young	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	-	4	3
Sophia Shand	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	-	9	-	4	-
Caroline Burton	- ditto - - -	-	3	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	-	6	-	2	9
Nancy Goolin	- ditto - - -	-	3	- ditto - - -	-	3	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	-	-	6
Hendry Lewis	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	-	9	-	3	3
Becky Fuller	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	-	9	-	3	3
James Green	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - -	-	6	- ditto - - -	-	4½	- ditto - -	1	-	- - - -	-	-	-	1	10½
Mary Bayley	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - -	-	9	- ditto - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	1	6
John Bogle (Wainmen.)	Carrying grass	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Jimmy Graham (Wainmen.)	Carrying manure	1	6	- - - -	1	6	Carrying manure	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Charles W. Bishop (Wainmen.)	Carrying tops	1	6	Carrying tops	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Dicky Matthis (Wainboys.)	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	-	6	3
Jack H. Kelly (Wainboys.)	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	-	6	3
Dicky Mitchell (Wainboys.)	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	- - - -	1	3	-	6	3
Leah Francis	Mowing grass	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Rosey Gale	- ditto - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Adeline Bishop	- ditto - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Johanah Francis	- ditto - -	1	1½	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	-	4	1½
Rosey Brown	- ditto - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Alina M'Intosh	- ditto - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Letaria Welch	- ditto - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	- - - -	1	6	-	7	6
Margaret Wilson	Digging manure	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	-	5	-
Jane Russell	- ditto - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	-	5	-
Caroline Robinson	- ditto - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	- - - -	1	-	-	5	-
Maria Stewart	-- Gathering up loose plant tops.	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	-	-	3	-
Jinny Brybitt	Spreading grass	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	-	3	9
Phœbe R. Cross	-- Hoeing about	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	-	-	3	-
Mary Rose	the yard.	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	- - - -	-	9	-	3	9
John Rickett	-- Drawing sticks	1	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	1	-
Edwin Sans	from out the woods.	-	9	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	-	9
Robert R. Fuller	Cooper	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	-	10	-
James Brown	ditto	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	-	10	-
John Robinson	Carpenter	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	- - - -	2	-	-	10	-
William Minot	- - - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- Apprentice -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	2	6
James Wright	- - - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	7	-
Robert Gyles	- - - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	7	-
Thomas Murray	- - - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- Attending cattle -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	7	-
James Brown	- - - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	7	-
William Morant	- - - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	- - - -	-	-	-	7	-
William Campbell	Cutting bamboos	1	-	-- Billing bushes	1	-	Billing bushes	-	1	-	Billing bushes	-	1	-	-	-	4	-
John W. Burke	Cutting plant tops	1	-	about works.	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	-	5	-
Thomas W. Gordon	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	Billing bushes	1	-	-	5	-
William Wilson	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	Digging post-holes	1	-	-- Removing cattle penns.	1	-	-	5	-
Dicky Brown	Cutting tops	1	-	Cutting plant tops	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	Billing bushes	1	-	-	5	-
Richard Fuller	Billing Bushes	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	Removing cattle penns.	1	-	-	5	-
Dublin Wright	- ditto - -	1	-	Billing bushes	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	-	5	0
Thomas Wright	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	- ditto - -	1	-	-	5	-
Joseph Wines	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching Kerr piece, canes, 3 days at 9 d., and 4 days at 6 d.												-	4	3
oseph Wines	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - - ditto - - - at night												-	2	-
Isaac Francis	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching Plot House piece, canes, 3 days at 9 d.												-	2	3
Isaac Francis	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - - ditto - - - at night												-	-	9
Princess Taylor	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching Sinclair piece, canes, 3 days at 9 d., and 4 at 6 d.												-	4	3
Princess Taylor	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - - ditto - - - at night												-	2	-
Sam. Graham	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching Plantain-walk piece, canes, 3 days at 9 d.												-	2	3
Sam. Graham	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - - ditto - - - at night												-	-	9
Frederic Hutchinson	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching canes, 3 days at 9 d., and 4 ditto at 6 d.												-	4	3
Frederic Hutchinson	- - - - -	-	-	- ditto - - - ditto - - - at night												-	2	-
Peter Knight	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching about works and shop, at ditto												-	2	3
Edwin Sams	- - - - -	-	-	- Watching cattle penn, 7 nights at 1 s.												-	7	-
Ann Wilson	- - - - -	-	-	- House-woman												-	3	6
Peter Knight	- - - - -	-	-	- House-servant												-	4	-
																£.	21	- 9

SUMMARY.

	£.	s.	d.
Planting canes on Pond piece, No. 1	2	13	1½
Stocking up land on ditto, No. 2	1	16	-
Trashing canes on Breeze Mill piece	1	-	3
Banking and trashing canes on Caromantee Tom piece	1	10	9
Planting corn on Pond piece, No. 1	-	12	-
Wainmen, 22 s. 6 d.; wainboys, 18 s. 9 d.; mowing grass, 49 s. 1½ d.	4	10	4½
Digging up manure, 15 s.; gathering up loose plant tops, 3 s.	-	18	-
Spreading grass, 3 s. 9 d.; hoeing about the yard, 6 s. 9 d.; drawing out sticks, 1 s. 9 d.	-	12	3
Coopers, 20 s.; carpenters, 12 s. 6 d.; attending cattle, 35 s.	3	7	6
Watchmen (variously employed), 56 s. 3 d.; night watching, 16 s. 9 d.	3	13	-
Domestic	-	7	6
£.	21	-	9

(B.)

PAY BILL for KNOLLIS ESTATE, from 18th to 22d October 1841.

NAMES.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	AMOUNT.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.
William Cole - - -	- - Trashing canes 1 3	- - Trashing canes -	- - Trashing canes 1 3	- - Trashing canes 1 -	- - Trashing canes - 9	- 4 3
Charles Knight - - -	on Breeze Mill 1 6	on Breeze Mill 1 6	on the same piece. 1 -	on the same piece. 1 -	on the same piece. -	- 5 -
Litaria Knight - - -	piece, first portion 1 6	piece, a' 20 chains 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - -	- 6 -
Samuel Parker - - -	a' 20 chains for 1 6	for 1s. 6d. -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- 1 6
John Morgan - - -	1 s. 6 d. 1 1½	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - - 9	- ditto - - - 7½	- 3 6
Lettice Green - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - - 1 6	- 5 -
Sarah Burke - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 3	- 6 -
Johanah Francis - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- 7 6
Elizabeth Brown - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- 7 6
Celina Grandison - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - -	- 3 6
Cecilia Barrett - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- ditto - - 1 6	- 6 -
Edwin Sans - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - - 9	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- 1 -
Eliza M'Lean - - -	- - Banking and 1 0	- - Banking and 1 6	- - Banking and -	- - Banking and 1 -	- - Banking and -	- 3 -
Liddy Young - - -	trashing canes on - 9	trashing canes on 1 -	trashing canes on -	trashing canes on -	trashing canes on -	- 9
Margaret Minot - - -	Caromantee Tom 1 -	Caromantee Tom -	same piece. -	same piece. -	same piece. -	- 1 -
Beckey Fuller - - -	piece, a' 14 chains - 9	piece, a' 14 chains, -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- 9
Juno Green - - -	for 1 s. 6 d. - 9	1 s. 6 d. -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- 9
James Green - - -	- ditto - - - 6	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- 6
Ann Harris Lewis - - -	- ditto - - - 6	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - - 6	- ditto - - -	- 2 -
Caroline Burton - - -	- ditto - - - 6	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- 6
John Campbell - - -	- ditto - - - 9	- ditto - - - 9	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - - 9	- ditto - - - 9	- 3 -
John Bogle - - }	Carrying grass - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- 7 6
Jimmy Graham - }	Carrying manure 1 6	- - - - -	- - Was going for - 9	- - Carrying wood 1 6	Went to Linstead 1 6	- 5 3
Charles W. Bishop }	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - -	staves, but hear- - 9	for still. 1 6	As yesterday - 1 6	- 5 3
Dicky Matthis - }	- ditto - - 1 3	- - - - 1 3	ing there were not - 6	- - - - 1 3	- - - - 1 3	- 5 6
Jack H. Kelly - }	- ditto - - 1 3	- - - - -	any, they return. - 6	- - - - 1 3	- - - - 1 3	- 4 3
James Reddin - }	- ditto - - 1 3	- - - - -	- - - - 1 3	- - - - 1 3	- - - - 1 3	- 5 -
Leah Francis - - -	Mowing grass - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 1½	- 7 1½
Rosey Gale - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- 7 6
Adeline Bishop - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - -	- 5 3
Johanah Francis - - -	- ditto - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- 3 9
Alina M'Intosh - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- 6 -
Rosey Brown - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- 6 -
Letaria Welch - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- - - - 1 1½	- 6 -
Margaret Wilson - -	- - Digging up 1 -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 1 -
	manure.					
Jane Russell - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 1 -
Caroline Robinson - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 1 -
Mary Rose - - -	- - Hoeing about - 9	- - - - - 6	- - - - - 6	- - - - - 9	- - - - -	- 2 6
	the yard.					
Maria Stewart - - -	- ditto - - - 9	- - - - - 6	- - - - - 6	- - - - - 9	- - - - -	- 2 6
Jinny Brybitt - - -	Spreading grass - - 9	- - - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- - - - - 9	- 3 9
John Brown - - -	- - Cutting wood 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- 7 6
	for still.					
Thomas Richards - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - -	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- 6 -
Lewis Francis - - -	- ditto - - 1 6	- - - - -	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- 6 -
Thomas Brown - - -	- ditto - - -	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- - - - 1 6	- 6 -
Robert R. Fuller - -	Coopers - - 2 -	- - Cutting sticks 2 -	Cutting sticks - 2 -	Cutting sticks - 2 -	- Making paths for 2 -	- 10 -
		in Burton Wood.			drawing out sticks.	
James Brown - - -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- 10 -
John Robinson - - -	Carpenters - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- ditto - - 2 -	- 10 -
William Minot - - -	- ditto (apprentice) -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 3 -
William Morant - - }	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 7 -
James Wright - - }	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 7 -
Thomas Murray - - }	- - - - -	- - - - -	- Attending cattle -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 7 -
Robert Gyles - - }	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 7 -
James Brown - - }	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- 7 -
John W. Burke - -	Billing bushes - -	- - Digging post- -	- Removing cattle 1 -	Billing bushes - 1 -	Billing bushes - 1 -	- 3 -
		holes.	penn.			
Dublin Wright - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- 4 -
William Wilson - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	Tieing up gaps - 1 -	- ditto - - -	- 5 -
Thomas W. Gordon - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- 3 -
Richard Fuller - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - -	Pulling withs - 1 -	- ditto - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- 4 -
William Campbell - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- Removing cattle 1 -	Billing bushes - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- 5 -
			penn.			
Dicky Brown - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	Tieing up gaps - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- 4 -
Thomas Wright - - -	- ditto - - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	Pulling withs - 1 -	- ditto - 1 -	- ditto - - 1 -	- 5 -
Joseph Wines - - -	- - - - -	Watching canes seven days, at 6 d. per day - - - -				- 3 6
Joseph Wines - - -	- - - - -	Ditto - - - ditto - - - at nights - - - -				- 2 -
Princess Taylor - -	- - - - -	Watching canes seven days, at 6 d. per day - - - -				- 3 6
Princess Taylor - -	- - - - -	Ditto - - - ditto - - - at nights - - - -				- 2 -
Frederic Hutchinson - -	- - - - -	Watching canes seven days, at 6 d. per day - - - -				- 3 6
Frederic Hutchinson - -	- - - - -	Ditto - - - ditto - - - at nights - - - -				- 2 -
John Barrett - - -	- - - - -	Watching about works and shop at nights - - - -				- 2 3
Edwin Sans - - -	- - - - -	Watching cattle penn seven nights, at 1 s. - - - -				- 7 -
Ann Wilson - - -	- - - - -	House-woman - - - - - - - - - -				- 3 6
Peter Knight - - -	- - - - -	House-servant - - - - - - - - - -				- - -
					£.	15 14 7½

SUMMARY.

	£. s. d.
Trashing canes on Breeze Mill piece, First Return - - - - - - - - - - - -	2 16 6
Banking and trashing canes on Caromantee Tom piece - - - - - - - - - - - -	- 12 3
Wainmen 18 s.; wainboys 14 s. 9 d.; mowing grass 41 s. 7½ d. - - - - - - - - - -	3 14 4½
Digging up manure 3 s.; hoeing about the yard 5 s.; spreading grass 3 s. 9 d. - - - - - - - - - -	- 11 9
Cutting wood for the still 25 s. 6 d.; coopers 20 s. - - - - - - - - - - - -	2 5 6
Carpenters 13 s.; attending cattle 35 s.; watchmen 43 s. 6 d. - - - - - - - - - - - -	4 11 6
Night-watching 15 s. 3 d.; domestic 7 s. 6 d. - - - - - - - - - - - -	1 2 9
£.	15 14 7½

5005. What does a task consist of in field work?—There are many different things to be done in field work; in this Paper here is planting canes, 21 chains for 1*s.* 6*d.*; the task laid down in this Return is 21 chains.

5006. Twenty-one chains is the task one labourer would have to perform?—Yes.

5007. How many hours ought it to occupy the labourer?—He could do it in five hours, if he worked properly.

5008. Do you ever find that they are willing to do more than one task in a day?—Very seldom indeed.

5009. In addition to the various rates of money-wages you have described, do the labourers receive any additional allowances, or derive any other advantages?—No; if they are doing any particular work, and a shower of rain comes, they may get a glass of rum.

5010. Are they enabled to make money from their provision grounds?—I do not think they can make so much as they would get by labouring upon a sugar estate for wages.

5011. Taking together the money-wages you give and the advantages of the provision grounds, do they make enough money to render them independent and to enrich them?—Yes.

5012. Have you had many purchases of property made by negroes upon your estates?—I have sold them a great quantity of land myself in small lots.

5013. At what price?—The price I got for it was about 3*l.* sterling an acre, but the expenses came to a great deal more.

5014. Whose expenses?—The expenses of the survey and the sale came to about 5*l.* or 6*l.* upon the small quantities; that is about 3*l.* or 4*l.* sterling.

5015. Did the negroes pay those expenses?—Yes.

5016. What quantity of land do they usually purchase?—Five or six, or ten acres.

5017. Viscount *Howick.*] Do you mean that the expenses of conveyance were so great as that upon each lot?—Yes.

5018. *Chairman.*] What is the cause of that?—The surveyor's charge, and the stamp duty upon the deed.

5019. What does the stamp duty upon the deed amount to upon a small lot like that?—The stamp upon the paper itself is 3*s.*, but the stamp duty failed this year in Jamaica; there is no stamp duty at the present moment; it used to be 3*s.*

5020. Do you mean that out of the 4*l.* or 5*l.*, the expense of the conveyance, the stamp was only 3*s.*?—I think that that was all; then on recording it there is another stamp; I suppose the stamp duty might come to 10*s.* altogether.

5021. Are both those stamps repealed?—The Stamp Act was lost upon a dispute between the Council and the Assembly this last year.

5022. Do the whole of the charges you mention fall upon the negro?—Yes.

5023. Has he then to build the house?—Yes.

5024. After he has settled himself upon this lot of land, is the produce of the land enough to maintain him, or is he compelled to labour in order to support himself?—He might get enough from that land to support himself.

5025. Do you find that they do get enough from their own land to support themselves, or are they still in the labour market?—I have found that usually when they have planted their provision grounds and finished their house, they do a portion of labour upon their own land, and a portion of labour in the cultivation of property near.

5026. Is the amount of wages you pay to the labourers regulated by any specific contract?—Every separate field they go to is a separate engagement. Before they commence, they agree upon what quantity they are to do, by a measurement that they can understand. They agree with the overlooker what they are to get for a certain portion.

5027. When your field labourers work by the day, what do you give them by the day?—I very seldom employ them by the day. It is only in very rare cases, where it is perfectly unavoidable.

5028. How often are the wages paid?—I pay once a fortnight unless they wish it to be oftener, and then they get it once a week if they wish, but that is very seldom.

5029. Of the labourers now employed upon your plantation, how many were slaves?—I am not capable of answering that question; there are so many gone

H. Lowndes, Esq.

20 June 1842.

away and others from other properties have come; some who may have had wives upon other properties have left, and others have come whose wives have been upon the property; they have changed in different ways.

5030. Is the half of the cane land which you were obliged to give up growing canes upon, applied now to any profitable sort of cultivation?—It is in pasture. Whenever it is out of cane cultivation the grass grows of itself, and cattle may feed upon it.

5031. Is it profitable as grazing land?—We had grazing land sufficient before; it is a superabundance of it.

5032. Have you been in the habit of letting any land to the negroes as well as selling it to them?—Yes, I have latterly.

5033. Upon what terms?—I think it is 20*s.* a year for an acre, they keeping up their own fences.

5034. Have you let any extent of land upon those terms?—No; it was only commencing when I left.

5035. What quantity of land in each instance have the labourers taken at that rate?—One, two, or three acres; I do not think any have gone beyond three acres.

5036. Have you known any cases in Jamaica of labourers growing sugar canes upon the land they purchased or rented?—Only in very small quantities; only for their own consumption for feeding their pigs.

5037. Have you ever known the Metarie system adopted in Jamaica?—No; I thought of it myself at the end of the apprenticeship, but I saw no probability of getting it done.

5038. Is it your opinion that if that system were adopted it would answer at all, and tend to diminish the present distress of the Jamaica planters?—It is difficult to say; my opinion is that it would not answer at present. I do not think it could be carried out at present.

5039. Do the papers which you have put in contain a detailed statement of the system of cultivation of a sugar plantation?—Yes; they contain detailed statements of the week's work, which show a difference of amount between 21*l.* in the one case and 15*l.* in the other, without any cause that I know for the difference. I have made an abstract of those two weeks, which I think are more favourable than on most of the properties under my charge, and I have made a return of the labourers, to show the difference of the attendance on particular days; and I think that estate is favourable for the property generally in my neighbourhood. I have also gone through the whole of one year, to show a return of the labourers on the estate. I happen to have taken during apprenticeship the actual number of people upon the estate, and how every one was employed; and I have followed that out by taking two weeks, showing how many people there were, and how they were employed; and I have taken the cultivation of the estate for a whole year, showing the wages paid to the labourers, and the other contingencies of the estate, with the profit and loss of the estate from the produce sold in this country.

[*The same were delivered in, and are as follows:*]

ACTUAL Employment, for One Day, of 152 Apprentices (75 males and 77 females,) on an Estate making 100 Hogsheads of Sugar, taken about December 1837, during the Apprenticeship, in *Jamaica*.

1 head constable.	4 ploughing.
2 doctors.	2 basket-makers.
2 drivers.	4 minding hogs.
1 head watchman.	1 minding sheep.
12 coopers and carpenters.	12 domestics.
9 in hospital.	15 second gang in the field.
43 great gang in the field.	11 invalids.
9 taking days.	1 minding poultry.
2 cartmen.	3 field cooks and nurses.
6 watching	7 cutting grass.
4 minding cattle.	
1 rat-catcher.	152

The same estate, during slavery, made about 180 hogsheads. In 1841, 81 hogsheads.

RETURN

RETURN of Labourers at Work upon an Estate in *Jamaica*.

	Monday, 11 Oct. 1841.	Monday, 18 Oct. 1841.	Tuesday, 19 Oct. 1841.
In the field	45	35	16
Carting	8	6	2
Cutting grass	8	8	8
Coopers and carpenters	4	4	4
Minding cattle	5	5	5
Watching	7	5	5
Domestics	2	2	2
	79	65	42

Wages earned in five days, ending Friday, 15th October 1841 - - £. 21 – 9

Ditto - - - five days, ending Friday, 22d - ditto - - - 15 14 7½

AMOUNT of Wages paid to Labourers only for the Cultivation of Canes and Contingencies, of an Estate in *Jamaica*, which made 81 Hogsheads of Sugar, and 40 Puncheons of Rum, in 1841.

	Sterling. £.	s.	d.
Ploughing, planting, hoeing, and trashing 41 acres of plant canes	404	9	8
Turning trash, hoeing, moulding, and trashing 22 acres of ratoon canes	67	13	3
Cutting and collecting fodder during 1840	81	3	6
Carting	124	15	9
Watching and fencing	175	14	8
Coopers and small repairs by carpenters	100	19	–
Overlooker and domestic	17	19	–
Odd jobs	122	1	7
Cutting canes and making sugar and rum, exclusive of carting, say	210	–	–
Cattle-minders	86	9	6
For Wages to Labourers only £.	1,391	5	11

AMOUNT of Contingencies of a Sugar Estate in *Jamaica*, not including Labourers' Wages, for 81 Hogsheads of Sugar, and 40 Puncheons of Rum, made in 1841.

	Sterling. £.	s.	d.
Salaries, including attorney	293	9	9
Cattle bought, deducting amount of old cattle sold	361	14	–
Repairs of buildings, and lumber	338	6	7
Waggonage and wharfage	35	8	10
Stone	86	12	7
Taxes	262	9	2
Petty expenses	52	9	1
Premium for silver to pay wages	26	16	–
Duties	28	17	7
£.	1,486	3	7

EXPENDITURE and PROCEEDS of an Estate in *Jamaica*, for a Crop of 81 Hogsheads of Sugar, and 40 Puncheons of Rum, made in 1841.

	Sterling. £.	s.	d.
Amount of labourers' wages, per note herewith	1,391	5	11
Amount of other contingencies per ditto	1,486	3	7
£.	2,877	9	6

(continued)

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	£.	s.	d.
Net proceeds of sugar and rum sold in London - - - - -	2,430	10	10
Ditto - - - ditto - sold in Jamaica - - - - -	30	-	10
Received for rent from labourers - - - - - - -	179	9	3
Ditto for corn and cane tops sold - - - - - - -	42	17	-
	2,682	17	11
Loss by cultivation, exclusive of interest on capital, &c. - -	194	11	7
£.	2,877	9	6

The estates contain 800 acres, and 400 acres detached, formerly used by the slaves for grounds. It is called Knollis, and the property of Augustus Eliott Fuller, esq.

5040. When you state that you have reduced the cane cultivation upon your eight estates one-half, is that a conjecture as to the quantity, or have you accurately ascertained the real quantity that you have thrown out of cultivation?—It is merely conjecture.

5041. Is it a conjecture applying to the whole eight estates?—Yes; perhaps more upon one, and less upon another; I think about half is the fair average of what is thrown out.

5042. And you think you could resume the cultivation of the whole, if the labourers actually residing upon those eight estates would all work continuously?—Not exactly all residing there; but all those who were there before, if they would work in the same way as they did before, the land would produce the same.

5043. If all those who are now within reach would do so, would that be sufficient?—I hardly think it would. I do not think it would be possible to get them to labour fairly.

5044. Is the produce of those eight estates half what it used to be before?—I think it has been considerably under half.

5045. Is the land fertile?—No, that parish is not fertile; it is near the centre of the island.

5046. How many years can you ratoon your canes?—If they are particularly well cultivated you may get plants and two ratoons.

5047. Are you conversant with the details of other estates in your neighbourhood?—Yes; there are only about 22 or 23 in the parish.

5048. Do you hear complaints with regard to those other estates as to the want of labour?—Yes; it is universal throughout the island, I believe.

5049. Have you the means of forming any accurate estimate of how many additional labourers you think would be requisite in the parish in which you live, in order to restore the former extent of cultivation?—No, I have never considered that.

5050. Have they taken to the use of machinery to a greater extent than formerly?—The use of the plough was extending itself very much during the period of slavery, and it is now almost entirely used for opening the land.

5051. Is the use of any other machinery increasing?—We have now only two steam-engines in the parish; we have several water-mills; but I do not think there is any room for the increase of machinery with our present prospects.

5052. Does the increased use of the plough save the labour of many hands?—It saves the labour of digging cane-holes, but not in any other way.

5053. Does it render cultivation cheaper, and a less quantity of labour necessary?—So far as the cane-holes are concerned; but that has not much increased since the end of slavery; we had carried it a great extent before.

5054. Have you directed your attention to the subject, of whether it is practicable to reduce any of the present expenses of cultivating sugar estates?—Yes.

5055. What is the result of your consideration of that question?—I do not see anything that can be reduced, except wages.

5056. Can you afford to pay the present rate of wages upon your present estates?—No; this statement shows a loss of 194 *l.* 11 *s.* upon the cultivation, without any calculation of interest upon the capital.

5057. Could you afford to pay the present rate of wages, if the labourers upon your land and in your neighbourhood would be more industrious, so as to enable you to resume the cultivation of the other half of your estate?—If they would

would do a fair day's work for 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, we could afford to give that; but they do not do more than five hours' work for 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

5058. One shilling and sixpence is what you pay for a task, which does not amount to more than half a day's work?—A very little more than half a day's work. I have used my utmost endeavours to get more work done during the crop, as it is very necessary that it should be, and all I have been able to do is to get them to do what they might easily do in seven hours.

5059. Do you consider that you suffer much injury from the labourers in the crop season, and in the manufacturing season, not working for a greater number of hours?—Certainly.

5060. Are you of opinion that at present the planters of Jamaica are suffering under great distress?—Yes; a great number of estates will have to be thrown up.

5061. Are there many estates thrown up in your immediate neighbourhood?—Yes; since I have been in the parish many estates have been thrown up, and there is hardly any estate in the parish that has not been losing money to the proprietor.

5062. What do you consider to be the chief cause of the distress of which you complain?—Want of continuous labour.

5063. Do you know any other cause?—I do not know any other. During the dry weather of 1840, the district I mention, being in the centre of the island, surrounded with hills, did not suffer as the rest of the island did.

5064. Is there any other remedy you would suggest?—There is no other.

5065. Do you think it is possible, and do you think it would be desirable to enact any laws with a view to require more continuous labour from the workmen?—I do not think it would be possible to compel more labour by any law. If the inducement of high wages will not now make them do more, I do not see that any law could do so.

5066. Have you any means of forming an opinion whether the population of the colony has increased since the abolition of slavery?—I have no documents; but from my own observation, I think it has increased very considerably.

5067. By natural causes?—Yes.

5068. You think the births have greatly exceeded the deaths?—Greatly; I think.

5069. You stated that you had no means of forming an opinion as to what amount of immigration Jamaica requires?—No.

5070. What has been the result of your observations as to any changes in the habits and characters of the negroes, which have been caused by emancipation?—I consider they are very much improved indeed; the cause of the increase of the population I consider to be that there is much less prostitution than there was formerly, and a great many more marriages.

5071. Have they become more religious in their character?—Yes, they have; they attend Divine worship very regularly on Sundays.

5072. Are the labourers upon your estates well accommodated in point of education?—Yes, a great many of the children go to the various schools; they are very anxious to learn to read and write.

5073. Are there abundance of schools for them to go to?—Yes.

5074. Is education offered in the schools gratuitously, or is it necessary for the negro to pay for the education of his children?—There has always been a free school since the abolition of slavery, but not particularly well filled; there was room for more scholars, and there are other schools where they pay.

5075. Have they any objection to pay for the education of their children?—I think they generally have.

5076. How long have you adopted the system of requiring the negroes to pay rent?—Since the end of the apprenticeship.

5077. Have you any difficulty in collecting the rent?—Not so much as you have in this country amongst the same class.

5078. Do you deduct the rent from the wages?—In no case.

5079. Is the system of paying rent general in your parish?—Yes.

5080. Do you think the fact of their being called upon to pay rent, has a tendency to increase local attachment, and to make them less migratory in their habits?—I do not know whether it has any effect upon them, they are not generally much inclined to migrate far.

5081. Do you think the fact of their paying rent has or has not given any additional

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additional power to the proprietors to obtain labour by holding out the threat of ejectment from their property unless they worked for him?—Some proprietors did think it gave them that power, but I never conceived that it did, and I never resorted to it.

5082. Have you known it resorted to with success in other instances?—No.

5083. What would be the effect, if you were to seek to obtain a greater supply of labour from your resident workmen, by holding out the threat that you would not let them continue to live there unless they worked for you?—They would look out for other residences. I have known several estates, more particularly one which I had the management of, where most of the people have left upon that account.

5084. Mr. *Barclay.*] What is the salary paid to the attorney of the estate?—On this estate he receives 150*l.* sterling.

5085. Is that the usual remuneration?—The usual remuneration now is by salaries. The legal remuneration in the island is by commissions upon the gross produce.

5086. What does the overseer receive?—The overseer of that estate, which is managed on the most economical principle, is a negro who was formerly a slave upon the property. He gets altogether about 60*l.* sterling; but the usual rate for an overseer now would be 300*l.* sterling a year.

5087. Supposing an English proprietor were to go out to Jamaica, and reside upon his own estate, would he, if he was a man of sufficient ability, be able to save the overseer's and attorney's salaries?—On my own estates I saved the overseer's salary, because I have been bred to the business; but I have never known an instance where proprietors who have gone out there, have for some years been successful; they have so many things to learn, that always for several years they have been unsuccessful. But, of course, if when he became capable of managing, he chose to give himself the trouble, he would save both.

5088. You are aware that it has been recommended to proprietors to go out to their estates?—No, I was not aware of it.

5089. Do you think it would be advisable for gentlemen holding property in Jamaica to go and reside upon their estates?—I have no doubt it would be beneficial to the country the more proprietors there were in it; but I think their own interests would suffer by it in the first instance, till they learned the management of the estates.

5090. *Chairman.*] The proprietors generally would require some assistance in the shape of an overlooker or a bailiff?—Certainly.

Jovis, 23° die Junii, 1842.

Mr. Bankes.	Sir Charles Douglas.
Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Samuel Gooding Barrett, Esq. called in; and Examined.

S. G. Barrett, Esq.

5091. *Chairman.*] ARE you acquainted with the colony of Jamaica?—Yes.

5092. What has been the length of your residence there, and what was your occupation?—Three years and four months, in the management of my own estates.

5093. When did you leave it?—I left it last June.

5094. Had you been continually there for three years and four months up to last June?—Yes.

5095. Were your estates sugar estates?—They were four sugar estates and two pens.

5096. A pen means a grazing farm?—Yes.

5097. Were you resident upon one of those sugar estates?—I was resident upon a pen attached to one of them.

5098. Were

5098. Were the four sugar estates and the two pens contiguous to each other?—No, they were detached.

5099. How were you with regard to labourers residing upon your estates; had you a large number of resident labourers?—Upon some of the estates I had; upon others they were very deficient indeed.

5100. Upon what terms did those labourers residing upon your estates occupy their premises?—They were generally in the habit of paying me rent for their houses, and I paid them a certain rate of wages.

5101. How long have they paid you rent?—They began paying rent on the 1st of November 1838, three months after the emancipation.

5102. Did they pay rent only for the house, or did they also pay rent for any provision-ground which they occupied?—Only for the house.

5103. After what rate did they pay rent for the house?—According to a valuation, which valuation took place by a negro appointed upon the property by me, and one appointed by them.

5104. Did the rent vary according to the value of the house?—Yes; the highest is 2*s.*, and the lowest 1*s.*

5105. Did that depend entirely upon the value of the house, or did it vary with the number of occupants?—Entirely upon the value of the house.

5106. What proportion of provision-grounds did they occupy?—It varied from four or five acres to half an acre or a quarter of an acre.

5107. What did that great variety depend upon?—One man would be more industrious than another, and wish to cultivate more land.

5108. Then you apportioned to them land solely with reference to the desire which they expressed?—I never interfered with them in the cultivation of their provision-grounds; I allowed them to hold the same grounds that they held during the state of slavery and apprenticeship.

5109. A certain portion of each estate was lotted off as negro land, and each individual negro might occupy more or less of that land, according to his habits of life?—Yes.

5110. Was that occupation the subject-matter of any distinct bargain?—No, there was no distinct bargain; if a labourer did not pay his rent, and I found fault with him, I had the power of discharging him from those grounds as soon as he did not pay his rent.

5111. Had you any written contract?—With respect to the ground, none.

5112. Had you any written contract with regard to the houses?—No written contract, but there was an understood contract.

5113. Will you state the whole extent of that understanding?—It was that they agreed to hold their houses, upon the expectation that they should give labour to the property; but if they did not give labour to the property, after a certain time they were expected to pay a higher rent.

5114. Are the Committee to understand that there was a distinct verbal agreement, to the full extent you have now mentioned, and that they entered upon the occupation of their houses upon the understanding you have specified?—Yes, upon the understanding I have specified.

5115. Had you any witnesses to that contract?—I had, always.

5116. Having so had a witness to it, did you find that that contract was held legally binding upon both parties before a magistrate?—No, I had great difficulty often to recover rent before a magistrate.

5117. Had you ever occasion to?—Frequently.

5118. When you did so, did you find the magistrate hold that it was not binding upon the negro?—Generally speaking, from the partiality shown by the magistrates who generally administered justice, they would give more advantage towards the negro than they would towards the planter.

5119. Did you find, up to the time of your leaving the island, that you had difficulty in recovering rent?—Not latterly; a very great improvement took place within about nine months previously to my leaving.

5120. You mean, that latterly the magistrates held that such a contract was a legal contract, binding upon the negro?—Yes; I allude more particularly to the special magistrates; the local magistrates hardly ever sat upon the case while I was residing in the parish of St. James's.

5121. Was that from a disinclination on their part to judge upon such matters?—I believe it was from a wish not to be thrown into collision with the stipendiary magistrates in disputes with the negroes.

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5122. The rent was stipulated at the time the contract was made?—Always.

5123. And it was part of the stipulation that the negro was to work for you?—I did not make that stipulation, but I always allowed a lower rent, provided he did work for me.

5124. What difference in the rent did you make, whether he worked for you or not?—According to the value of the house.

5125. In the event of a 2*s.* house?—Then I allowed him to work where he pleased if he paid me the full value of the house.

5126. Did you find practically, for the most part, that those men did work for you?—Very much the reverse; they generally worked where the estates were paying a higher rate of wages.

5127. In other cases, where you charged a lower rent, what difference was stipulated to be made in the event of the man not working for you?—There was very little, for I found at last, and I had to alter it afterwards, that the negroes that were paying the higher rent did not work more off the estate than those that were paying the lower rent.

5128. What notice, under this contract, was requisite, in the event of your wishing to discharge a negro from his residence?—A week's notice, by mutual agreement.

5129. Was this system uniform upon all the six estates you have mentioned?—Yes, entirely.

5130. What parish were those estates in?—In Hanover, St. James's, Trelawney, and St Ann's.

5131. Although they were contiguous, they were in so many different parishes?—Yes.

5132. Were you conversant with the statistics and details of all the estates around in those parishes?—I knew pretty well the system of management that was generally carried on on the neighbouring properties.

5133. Was the same system of rent that you have described as being your own custom, the system generally adopted upon the neighbouring estates?—No, I should say decidedly not.

5134. What was the system as to rent upon the neighbouring estates?—If the labourer did not work for the property, he was often charged 3*s.* rent for his house, without any agreement whatever.

5135. Did he pay any rent if he did work for the property?—Yes, he did upon many estates, upon others not; but I do not know any two estates that were managed upon the same principle throughout the parish of St. James's.

5136. Have you known any instances in which a small rent, or no rent was paid in the event of their working upon the estate, and a rent of 3*s.* exacted in the event of their not working upon the estate?—Yes, I have known many cases where no rent was paid provided they gave their labour.

5137. What rent if they did?—The most I have known has been 3*s.*

5138. No rent in case of work, and 3*s.* with no work?—Yes.

5139. Do you know what was the effect of that system?—No, I cannot say.

5140. Do you know whether that system was sanctioned by the magistrates?—I cannot say; for I cannot say that it ever came before them.

5141. In the event of your turning the negro out of his premises, did you allow him to reap the crop of provisions which might be growing upon his provision-ground?—Sometimes I did. It depended upon his former conduct.

5142. There was no fixed law upon the subject?—None.

5143. What rate of wages have you paid?—It depended upon whether it was day labour or job work.

5144. Which was the most common with you?—Day labour, generally.

5145. What did you pay per day?—It varied according to whether they were adults or children. Children were paid 6*d.* a day; adults, from 1*s.* a day to 2*s.* and 3*s.*, according to the number of hours they were at work.

5146. Do you mean that you had a regular scale of wages depending upon the number of hours they worked?—Yes, 2*d.* an hour was the scale of wages.

5147. Was that your general system?—Yes, when I could get them to enter into it.

5148. Were

5148. Were many of your workmen willing to enter into it?—Sometimes they were.

5149. How did it answer?—Sometimes it answered; in other weeks it did not, owing to the neighbouring estates offering them higher wages, and employing them by the day.

5150. How could they earn as much as 3*s.* a day?—The negroes would begin to boil sugar at four o'clock in the morning, and might not stop till 12 o'clock at night, or one o'clock; they might work 24 hours.

5151. Did you find them willing to work for a greater number of hours, in the event of being paid 2*d.* an hour?—Sometimes I did; I cannot say generally; you might find a few.

5152. In those cases where they worked by the task, the task was some given portion of work?—It was.

5153. How many hours did the task last?—It depended entirely upon the task given to them; there were so many varieties of task in the cultivation of a sugar estate.

5154. What do the negroes earn by task-work?—I have known them earn 3*s.* cutting canes by task-work in half the space of time that they would earn 1 *s.* 6 *d.* by day labour.

5155. Which do they prefer?—Task-work, decidedly.

5156. You preferred the system of 2 *d.* an hour?—Yes, when they worked 2 *d.* an hour; that was only when they were employed in grinding the cane or boiling the sugar.

5157. Did you make any allowances besides those money wages?—None whatever, except the use of their provision-grounds.

5158. How often did you pay them?—Every Friday evening.

5159. When you so paid them, did you deduct the rent?—Never; I used to make it a separate account; and if they did not pay the rent within three weeks after it was due, I used to take out a summons before a magistrate.

5160. According to the contract you made for the occupation of the house, how often ought they to pay the rent?—Once a week it was expected; but I never took out a summons unless they were in arrear three weeks.

5161. Did you find, upon the whole, that the labour of those men was irregular and unsatisfactory?—Very much so indeed.

5162. Was it irregular in point of time?—Very much so.

5163. Was it unsatisfactory in point of performance?—Yes.

5164. In the event of its being unsatisfactory in point of performance, what redress had you?—None.

5165. Do you mean that you had none by law, or that you had none to which you liked to resort?—I mean that there was none that I liked to have recourse to, from the numerous cases in which I saw that the result of the decision was unfavourable; in every instance almost that came under my notice individually.

5166. Does that remark apply to the whole period you were there, up to the time of your leaving?—No; I am happy to say that, within about nine months previous to my departure from the island, the law began to be much better administered.

5167. Latterly you had no cause to complain as to the decisions of the magistracy?—Not so much.

5168. Had you any disinclination to go for justice before a magistrate, from the dread of offending your labourer in the event of making such an application?—No, I had not.

5168*. You were not afraid that you might thereby lose his labour?—No, I was not afraid of that; but the general result was the same.

5169. To what extent, generally speaking, had you to complain of irregularity in point of time on the part of those workmen?—For instance, the general time that the negro turns out to labour is at six o'clock in the morning; the bell on the estate used always to ring punctually at six; and very often the person that attended the labourers in the field would be waiting there two hours before the labourers went into the field, and that was when they were employed at day labour.

5170. And you defended yourself against that by deducting 2*d.* for each hour they were so absent?—Of course.

5171. Did that deduction compensate you for the loss of labour you sustained?—No.

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5172. Did they work every day in the week?—No.

5173. How many days in the week did they work?—It depended entirely upon the money they earned. If they earned a considerable sum of money in task-work in two or three days, they would not work the other two days.

5174. Did you ever try the experiment of not paying for any work done during the week, unless the labourers worked for five days in the week?—No.

5175. Did you ever hear of that being done?—I have heard of it, but I never knew it practised in my immediate neighbourhood.

5176. Do you think it would have a good effect?—No, I think not; I think you would get very little labour done by that practice.

5177. Would not a successful instance to the contrary influence that opinion on your part?—I should be glad to know of such a case.

5178. Have you found them irregular to a larger extent than a few days in the week; have they ever absented themselves for weeks together?—Frequently; for a fortnight I have hardly had six people, independent of the tradesmen, at work.

5179. Has that been the case in crop time?—Yes, in crop time.

5180. Have you suffered great loss in consequence of that irregularity on their part?—Yes, very considerable.

5181. How many days in the week should you say that the men work, when they are at work?—I should say about five days.

5182. You mean that they are generally willing to work as much as five days?—They will sometimes; of course there are times when they will not; for instance, if a rainy season comes, which is suitable to the cultivation of their own grounds, then there is great difficulty in getting work.

5183. Did the majority of them work five days in the week?—No; not in cases that came under my own individual knowledge.

5184. Were their wages always paid in money?—Yes.

5185. How many classes of labourers had you upon your estate?—Three.

5186. What were they?—The first class were children under ten years of age; the second class were people under sixteen, and the third class were able-bodied labourers.

5187. Had you as many labourers resident upon your estates as you had during the time of slavery?—No, decidedly not.

5188. What is the difference in the number?—I should think about 200 less at least, taking the whole of the estates.

5189. When you say 200 less, do you mean 200 less available labourers, or 200 altogether, of different ages and sexes?—Two hundred altogether.

5190. How many have you resident altogether now?—It is impossible to answer that question satisfactorily, as they constantly come and go.

5191. How many had you resident upon those six estates in the time of slavery?—I cannot answer that question satisfactorily, without reference.

5192. Then if you neither know how many you had in slavery, or how many you have now, how do you arrive at the conclusion that you have 200 less than you had in the time of slavery?—From the number occupying houses.

5193. Do you know how many houses you have?—Yes.

5194. If you know how many houses you have, and you know how many are occupied, cannot you tell about how many you have resident on your estate?—Many of the houses are unoccupied now.

5195. Can you form no estimate of the difference in the comparative number of labourers between slavery and the present time?—I should think I have at present, resident upon the four sugar estates, and the two pens, between 400 and 500.

5196. Of all ages and sexes?—Yes.

5197. Then so far as you can judge, the difference between the number of your resident negroes in slavery, and the resident negroes now, would be as between five and seven?—Yes.

5198. Notwithstanding that diminution, do you think that the present number of negroes upon the estates would be sufficient for the satisfactory cultivation of those estates if they would work industriously and continuously?—Decidedly not; it would be quite inadequate.

5199. Had you under your care, during slavery, the same four sugar estates and the two pens that you have lately had?—No.

5200. How

5200. How many sugar estates had you under your care during slavery?—Two.

5201. Have you the management of those estates now?—Yes.

5202. In what ratio has the produce of those two sugar estates fallen off since the abolition of slavery?—Nearly two-thirds.

5203. To what do you attribute that falling off?—To the want of labour.

5204. Then the ratio of decrease of produce is much beyond the ratio of decrease of the supply of labour?—Yes.

5205. To what do you attribute that circumstance?—I cannot exactly say.

5206. Do you think the different nature of the labour given has anything to do with it?—Most decidedly.

5207. Both in respect of being less continuous, and in respect of being less satisfactorily done?—Yes.

5208. Have you known any estates abandoned in your neighbourhood?—Not in the immediate neighbourhood.

5209. Are you now cultivating the estates of which you have spoken to your own advantage?—Last year I did not; but this year I hope that I am.

5210. Did you suffer from any disadvantages of bad weather last year?—From the dry weather.

5211. But this year you think that, notwithstanding all the disadvantages of labour of which you have spoken, you may cultivate the estates to a profit?—To a profit; but a very small profit in comparison with the capital embarked.

5212. Mr. *Hawes*.] What do you consider a small profit?—In the two years the four estates, I do not consider, will clear me 3,000*l*.

5213. What profit per cent. upon the capital?—The capital embarked is very large indeed; it would be difficult to answer that without a calculation.

5214. Are you not able to state what would be a fair profit upon the capital embarked?—No.

5215. *Chairman*.] What do you think ought to be the produce of those estates, in point of quantity of hogsheads of sugar, supposing they were properly cultivated?—There ought to be 600 hogsheads from the four estates.

5216. What do you expect to get this year?—About 400.

5217. Mr. *Hawes*.] What do you reckon the weight of a hogshead?—Seventeen cwt. in England.

5218. *Chairman*.] What is it with you?—It varies according to the size of the hogsheads; some are much smaller, and others larger; but a good hogshead weighs about 18 cwt.

5219. Have you diminished the extent of land growing canes?—I have been compelled to diminish the extent, and I am now endeavouring to put it into cultivation again.

5220. What has induced you to resume the cultivation?—From having a large capital embarked there, I wished to see the success of the property.

5221. Have you more labourers than you had?—No.

5222. What would you suggest as the best remedy for the distress which you and other planters are suffering under?—A large immigration from the coast of Africa.

5223. To what extent should you desire to introduce immigrants upon your own property?—About 300.

5224. You would not be satisfied with making up the 200 that you think are gone?—No; I should prefer to see 300, in order to cultivate land which even during the later years of slavery was not cultivated.

5225. Have you had any immigrants upon your estates?—Yes; I saw them there in 1834, when I first went there.

5226. Where did they come from?—From England; European labourers.

5227. How did they answer?—It was a total failure.

5228. Have you had any African immigrants lately?—I had about 80 of the captured Africans from the slaver the Ulysses, captured in 1839.

5229. Were they in a state of civilisation when they were sent to you?—No, very far from it; they were apprenticed to me for a twelvemonth by the Government, and I found such a jealousy existed between the Creole negroes and them, they being anxious to work for the same wages, that I threw up the apprenticeship and gave them the same wages that I gave the Creoles.

5230. How did they conduct themselves after that?—Very well indeed.

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5231. Have they become Christians?—I cannot say exactly that; while I was there they had only been a short time there.

5232. Do they receive any education?—No, they receive no education.

5233. Do they receive the same wages and advantages in all respects as the Creole negroes?—Rather more.

5234. Do they work better?—Yes; after they have learned the use of the hoe and the different agricultural implements they work far better.

5235. Have you had any accounts whether they still continue to do so?—I have heard no particular account of them, but I have heard no complaints.

5236. What effect did you find was produced upon the labour of the Creole negroes by the introduction of those captured Africans; did it make them more industrious, or enable you to give lower wages?—No, a great many left the estate and worked for other parties; they did not like the interference.

5237. Did those immigrants occupy provision-grounds?—Yes.

5238. Did they pay rent for their houses?—No.

5239. Then to the extent of the rent, they were better off than the Creole negroes?—Yes.

5240. Why should they not have paid rent?—I did not think they were in a proper state to understand what the rent was.

5241. What language did they talk?—There are so many varieties, that it is impossible to say.

5242. Did they talk any language that enabled you to communicate with them?—Upon most of the estates there are old Africans that are enabled to interpret.

5243. Did they proceed to acquire any common language?—They were acquiring the English language.

5244. Did you find that in any respect they were difficult to keep in order, or were they well conducted?—They were well conducted; it was difficult at first to show them the way to go about it.

5245. Were they in a perfectly barbarous state when you first had them?—Perfectly barbarous.

5246. Did they bring their families with them?—I cannot answer that; most of them had their wives; they had no families; they were all able-bodied labourers.

5247. When you stated to the Committee that you have 400 or 500 negroes resident upon your property, did you include those 80 immigrants?—No, I did not.

5248. Then you have only 120 less strength, than you used to have?—I did not include in the 450 resident upon the property those Africans; I included the negroes that had formerly been occupying those houses during slavery.

5249. When you stated that you have 200 less labourers than you had during slavery, the Committee are now to understand, that that is 200 less 80.—Yes, the 80 are to be deducted.

5250. Have you at all directed your attention to the inquiry, and have you any means of forming an opinion, what supply of emigrants might be desirable for the whole island of Jamaica?—Yes, I have made a rough calculation with reference to the parish I am most acquainted with, the parish of St. James; I know most of the estates in it, and I have made a rough calculation, knowing the number of labourers resident upon most of the estates in that parish, that it would require from 1,500 to 2,000 in the parish of St. James.

5251. How many do you think would be required in the whole island of Jamaica?—To keep up the present cultivation, I should think nothing under between 25,000 and 30,000 able-bodied labourers.

5252. Have you ever considered from what quarter of the world it may be desirable and practicable to draw such a large body of labourers?—Yes; the only labourers that can cultivate sugar-cane, in my opinion, are Africans.

5253. When you express that opinion, and desire to obtain so large a body as 25,000 or 30,000 Africans, do you contemplate the coast of Africa or North America as the most probable source of supply?—I have never taken that into consideration.

5254. Mr. *Hawes.*] You were understood to state that you anticipate a supply of labourers from the coast of Africa?—Yes.

5255. You point that out as the locality to obtain a supply from, in preference to any other?—I have not considered any other place more favourable.

5256. *Chairman.*]

5256. *Chairman.*] Your attention has not been directed to the probability of drawing a large supply from North America?—No.

5257. What have you observed to be the general result of emancipation upon the character and habits of your resident Creole negroes?—In many instances, I think, from what I have seen of them, not having been there during the state of slavery, their natural moral character has improved.

5258. Have they become more religious and better educated?—Yes.

5259. Have they become more moral?—Yes.

5260. Have you directed your attention to the inquiry, how far the population is increasing by natural causes?—From what I have seen upon the subject, I should say that the population of Jamaica is very much upon the increase.

5261. Do you attribute that to emancipation?—I attribute it to that general intercourse not taking place between males and females that did formerly.

5262. Have marriages become more common in your neighbourhood?—A great deal.

5263. And you find that parties once married live together in a domestic state?—Yes.

5264. And rear their children respectably?—Yes.

5265. Supposing you had a larger supply of labourers, could you afford to give the same rate of wages that you are now paying?—It would depend upon circumstances.

5266. What circumstances?—It would depend upon whether the crops on the different estates would increase, or the prices of sugar would rise.

5267. Suppose the present prices and average crops?—If I had the estates in a high state of cultivation I could do it, but not otherwise.

5268. Have you ever tried to compel more continuous labour by reducing wages?—I have attempted it, but I always found it fail.

5269. What has been the result; why has it failed?—The negroes have deserted their work entirely.

5270. Have they left the property?—Yes.

5271. Did you immediately yield, or did you hold out?—I held out as long as I could, without serious injury to the estates, but they did not come back till I relinquished.

5272. Has the same experiment been tried by other proprietors?—I believe it has.

5273. With similar results?—Yes.

5274. Do you grow anything besides sugar upon your estates?—No.

5275. Are your estates fertile?—When they have seasonable weather, they are.

5276. How many years can you ratoon your canes?—Thirty years on one estate, I have.

5277. Then the land must be very fertile?—Yes; different properties vary, and different parts of the property; it depends upon the situation of the cane.

5278. Can you state in detail the system of cultivation of a sugar plantation until the canes are ripe?—Yes, I have got a statement that I wrote upon the subject.

5279. Will you have the goodness to read it?—The land to be planted in canes is first cleaned, and burnt off; it is then lined off for cane-holes, and each acre, if properly dug, should contain 2,700 holes. The next process consists in planting off, which is done by placing two cane tops, about 18 inches long, parallel into each hole; it is then slightly filled up with earth, and after the canes are about one foot high out of the ground, a small portion more of the bank is given to them (the term bank meaning the earth dug out of each hole, and lying in a small mound between each cane-hole), and a little by dégrees is given till the cane-hole is level with the surrounding earth. By this time cleaning them will be had recourse to, which will take place, according to circumstances, from three to four times from the time the cane is planted till it becomes ready for the mill; it is then cut down and carried to the mill to be ground, and the juice extracted, which is done by the means of three powerful rollers; two working one way to take in the cane, the other the reverse, to throw out the trash, which is the cane after all the saccharine matter is compressed out of it, and which, when thoroughly dried, is used as fuel to boil the sugar with. These mills are generally turned by some power-

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ful machinery, such as by water, steam, cattle, or by wind. The next process is the boiling, which consists of a set of coppers adapted for the purpose, in number three, of different sizes, exclusive of the syphon which receives the juice when first extracted from the cane, and in which it undergoes the process of simmering, for the purpose of clarifying the liquor from its impure particles previous to being run into the first copper, where it undergoes the first process of boiling and skimming; the skimmings being the dirty particles, which are run into a receiver in the still-house, and used with the molasses in the manufacture of rum. The liquor is then skipped into a second copper, where it undergoes a similar process, but with the application of a stronger fire and the addition of a small quantity of temper lime to clarify it, and to destroy any acidity in the juice; it should now be pure liquor and ready for the teache, the last and smallest copper, and which has the most powerful fire, into which it is skipped and boiled for some time. It is now sugar, and is run into large coolers, where it remains till it is nearly cold; it is then carried out and potted into hogsheads in the curing-house, and placed on ranges, where they are allowed to remain from two to four weeks, to allow the molasses to escape and the sugar to cure, and at the expiry of that time the hogsheads are headed up and supposed to be ready for shipment.

5280. What time intervenes from the planting of the cane to cutting it?—It depends entirely upon the nature of the soil and the seasons; from 12 to 16 months is the general period.

5281. How much cane land do you plant fresh every year?—I only plant one estate; one estate I plant and one estate I ratoon.

5282. Upon the ratooning estates you plant a very small portion every year?—A very small portion.

5283. Do you allow a proportionate quantity to be out of cultivation every year?—No, we endeavour to keep up the cultivation of the cane fields.

5284. When you find that it has been planted with canes as long as it will bear do you allow it to go out of cultivation?—I allow it to lie fallow.

5285. So that when you fresh plant cane land you endeavour to plant fresh land?—Yes; but it can never be planted again without very highly manuring.

5286. What do you manure with?—With the manure of cattle and mules.

5287. Have you introduced machinery upon the estates to an increased extent?—Yes; I have applied it wherever I possibly can.

5288. Do you think that, with a view to meeting the existing difficulties, it would be possible to diminish the expense of cultivating estates in Jamaica?—The only possibility of diminishing the expense of the cultivation of estates would be by the importation of immigrants.

5289. In what way would the importation of immigrants upon a large scale diminish the expense of cultivation?—I think there would be more competition among the labourers.

5290. Mr. *Hawes.*] Competition for what?—That there would be more competition for labour; and when the planters saw that there were more applications for labour they would reduce the rate of wages.

5291. The competition you look for is between the labourers with a view to the reduction of wages?—Yes.

5292. Not with a view to economise the production of sugar?—No; a reduction of wages.

5293. *Chairman.*] To what extent do you think that the labourers could afford to have their existing wages reduced without materially interfering with their comforts?—I should think a fair rate of wages would be 1*s.* a day.

5294. Mr. *Hawes.*] How many hours' work?—Nine hours' work.

5295. *Chairman.*] At present, according to the rate of wages you mentioned, they would gain 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for the nine hours' labour?—Yes, an able-bodied labourer.

5296. But by working by task they might, and probably would gain more?—Yes.

5297. Are you speaking of 1*s.* currency?—No, 1*s.* sterling; all my answers have been in sterling money, having paid in sterling since the 1st of January 1841, when the currency was assimilated to that of the mother country.

5298. *Chairman.*] Have you known of many instances in your neighbourhood of the purchase of land by negroes?—Not in my immediate neighbourhood.

5299. Have

5299. Have you known any instances in your neighbourhood or elsewhere, of negroes what is called squatting, taking possession of uncultivated land?—Yes, I have.

5300. Are you aware of any instances of that kind to any large extent?—No, I could not say for certain, to a very large extent; I have heard of it from different managers of estates, but I have not seen it.

5301. Do you know whether there are in Jamaica sufficient laws to prevent the negroes from doing that?—I cannot answer that; I do not think there are sufficient laws for that.

5302. Do you know any instance in which an attempt has been made to prevent negroes from squatting when they have shown a disposition to do so?—No, I have not.

5303. When you say, that when you have attempted to reduce wages, the result has been that the negroes have left your property and gone elsewhere, where do they betake themselves?—To the neighbouring properties, to work there.

5304. Are there any instances in your neighbourhood of negroes residing upon properties which they have purchased?—I am not aware of any of the negroes having purchased any extent of property; but having purchased two, or three, or four acres of land, they have taken up their location upon them.

5305. Are those cases numerous in your neighbourhood?—Not in my immediate neighbourhood, but about 10 miles off.

5306. When they have so done, and betaken themselves to those plots of land, are they still dependent upon their labour for support, or do they live upon the proceeds of the produce of the land?—They occasionally work, and with that and the proceeds of those spots of land they derive a sufficient livelihood.

5307. They work occasionally, but not regularly?—Not regularly.

5308. Is a negro who has the occupation of three, or four, or five acres of land, able to grow any quantity of provisions for the purpose of sale?—A very considerable quantity, provided the land is situated in a seasonable part of the country.

5309. In that case he would be able to live upon the portion of land which he so held?—He would.

5310. Do you know any instances in your neighbourhood of the metoric system of letting land?—No, I do not know any.

5311. You do know whether that system has been resorted to in Jamaica?—No, I do not.

5312. Has it ever suggested itself to you, to try the experiment of leasing any extent of land to the negroes?—No, I have not done it; I have offered land on the pen, but those offers have never been acceded to.

5313. Have you ever known any instance of negroes renting anything like a large extent of land?—No, I never heard of any.

5314. When you talk of immigration as the great remedy for the distress you suffer, are you of opinion that that alone, unsupported by any other measures, would be sufficient; do you think the consequence of immigration would be so to lower wages, and to create competition among the labourers, as to give you an adequate command of labour?—No, I do not think that would be all that we should require.

5315. What more should you require?—I think we should require protection from this country.

5316. In what shape do you think it would be desirable that you should receive protection from this country?—I do not think that if foreign sugar is imported at a lower rate of duty, we can ever compete with it.

5317. You mean, that you think the existing system of protection ought to be continued?—Yes.

5318. Is there any other sort of protection that you would require, or any other regulation you would recommend?—I should think that the police magistracy are not sufficient for the administration of the laws, in point of number, at present.

5319. Do you think the laws themselves are sufficient?—I think many of the laws might be revised with great advantage.

5320. What laws would you suggest a revision of?—I think there are many laws that are more favourable to the labourers than they are to the proprietors;

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I cannot enumerate them now, but from what I have seen in attending the courts of justice, I have come to that opinion.

5321. Do you think it practicable, or desirable that any fresh law should be passed for the regulation of the relation between labourers and employers?—No; as to the relation between labourers and employers, if the laws were properly administered, and a few of the clauses in the different laws amended, I think we have quite ample laws.

5322. Do you think that a new law is called for, to compel the labourer to give more continuous labour when he once consents to work?—Yes, I think that law would be advantageous.

5323. Is there any law at present, which has in any manner the effect of compelling the labourer to continue his work when he once consents to give it?—You must prove an agreement, which is a very difficult thing to do with the negro, for he will not sign any agreement.

5324. Is a verbal agreement binding?—It has not been in many instances that I have seen.

5325. Is a verbal agreement, with a witness, held to be binding?—I have seen many parties nonsuited with that.

5326. Are verbal agreements the only agreements to which you resort?—You endeavour if you can to get a written agreement, but it is very difficult to get a negro to put his hand to paper.

5327. Did you ever get it done?—I have got it done.

5328. When you do make an agreement, for what length of time do you make it?—If it is a contract for a particular species of work, the contract is adapted to the work.

5329. Have you no general hiring?—No.

5330. You have no contracts for general labour?—No.

5331. You mean that the contract refers to some particular sort of labour?—Yes; whatever labour the person might choose to give to the negro to perform.

5332. Take the case of a common field labourer, either in crop or out of crop; do you enter into a written contract that the man shall give you his services for a specified length of time?—No, I never do.

5333. Might you not do so?—I think it might be done.

5334. Under the existing law?—Yes, if it was a written agreement.

5335. Have you ever tried to make such written agreement?—I have tried it, but I have never succeeded.

5336. Would it be of advantage if the law were, that a verbal agreement in the presence of a witness was binding?—Yes, I think it would.

5337. Supposing you get a labourer to enter into a written agreement to give you his services for field labour for a specified time, does the law enable you to compel his services, under fair regulations, for that time continuously?—Yes, I should say so.

5338. Then your practical difficulty is, that you cannot persuade the labourers to sign an agreement for labour?—That is the practical difficulty.

5339. And it is very rarely done?—Very rarely done.

5340. Have you ever known negroes to cultivate sugar or coffee?—I have known them cultivate coffee, but never sugar.

5341. Do you employ upon your own estate only the resident labourers, or do you ever resort to the labour of parties living elsewhere?—I procure labour wherever I possibly can.

5342. Do you find that your resident labourers are so far insufficient that you are obliged to hire others?—Yes.

5343. Where do you get them from?—From neighbouring properties, wherever I can.

5344. Do you mean that you endeavour, by giving higher wages than your neighbours, to induce the labourers upon the neighbouring properties to come and work for you?—I am always in the habit of giving 2½*d.* a day more to strangers than to people upon my own estate.

5345. Is the consequence of that system that you get your neighbour's labourers?—Yes; I do not know, if I did not do that, whether I should be able to cultivate my estates at all.

5346. But to whatever extent you succeed in so doing, your neighbours are deprived of labour to that extent?—Yes, very often.

5347. You

5347. You stated that the supply of labour is very different upon the six different estates you occupy; to what is that owing?—The wandering habits of the negro, to a great extent.

5348. Is it that some of your estates are more advantageously situated than others?—Some of the estates are subject to a great deficiency of water, and that is a thing the negroes dislike very much, and they generally rather wander in consequence.

5349. Do you find that, under the system of rent which you practise, the negroes become attached to the properties they occupy, and are unwilling to leave them unless ejected by you?—I think the nature of the negro is such, that if he could get his own property, he is naturally attached to the property he was born on, and he would like to reside on the property.

5350. You do not find that they commonly leave the property and wander away to others, from mere caprice?—Yes, I have known many instances of that.

5351. Without the inducement of higher wages?—Without the inducement of higher wages.

5352. On receiving a slight offence where they formerly lived?—Yes.

5353. You have stated the parishes in which your estates are situated; in what county are those parishes?—In the county of Cornwall, except St. Anne's, which is in the county of Middlesex.

5354. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the general character of the soil in those parishes?—They are very variable indeed.

5355. Which is the most fertile?—The most fertile soil is Hanover.

5356. Is the sugar cultivation retrograding in Hanover?—I am not so immediately acquainted with that parish as I am with the others, so that I cannot exactly state, but the deficiency is very considerable I know.

5357. And in your case solely attributable to the want of labour?—To the want of labour.

5358. Not merely the want of continuous labour, but the want of labourers also?—The want of labourers also; both combined.

5359. You were understood to say, that if you had a large importation of labourers, the wages you would be able to pay the imported labourers would depend upon the price of sugar and the crops you obtained; at what price do you desire to see sugar maintained in order to maintain the present crops?—£. 25; nothing under that would pay the cultivator.

5360. That is, 25 *l.* upon the spot?—£. 25 a hogshead in the London market.

5361. Do you mean 25 *l.* in the London market, or 25 *s.* a hundred weight in Jamaica?—I mean the net proceeds of a hogshead of sugar to the proprietor, to remunerate him for the cultivation of the estate.

5362. To that 25 *l.* in this country, before it reaches the consumer, must be added the duty and all the expenses of the voyage?—Yes.

5363. You have stated that the labourers sometimes desert the properties and find occupation on adjoining estates; has that been the case on your estates?—Yes; it is general on all the estates.

5364. When they have left your estate, has it been within your knowledge that they have been working upon the neighbouring estates?—With respect to many of them I cannot say; I have never been able to find out.

5365. You have paid more wages than others?—More to strangers, to non-residents upon the property, than to labourers residing on the property.

5366. Does their leaving your property, and going to another, arise from any local advantages?—Not in the large numbers that have gone away.

5367. Have you ever attempted to raise any other produce upon your estates besides sugar?—No.

5368. Are you at all acquainted with the papers which have been laid before this Committee relative to British Guiana, with reference to a better mode of cultivating and letting out land for cultivation?—No.

5369. Have you at all attended to a mode which has been suggested of obtaining labour and produce, by letting your land so as to make the labourer a joint sharer in the produce?—I have not attended to that; but I think in many instances it might be done with advantage.

5370. Has it been done upon your estates?—No; nor, I think, anywhere in Jamaica.

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5371. Is there any difference in the mode of cultivating your estates now, as compared with the mode of cultivation adopted during the state of slavery?—I cannot say; I was not acquainted with them then.

5372. Have any improvements been introduced with regard to the cultivation or the introduction of machinery?—Yes; I have imported bone manure from England, and I have imported machinery very largely.

5373. Have you found that beneficial?—No; in fact the bone manure never tells the first year; the success of that I could not say, having left the country before it was likely to be advantageous.

5374. Is the parish of St. James a fertile soil?—Yes.

5375. What was the state of the labouring population in 1839?—They were very irregular indeed at their work.

5376. What were the wages then?—The wages varied as they do at the present moment; on different estates different agreements were entered into.

5377. What were the wages on your estates at St. James's?—The same wages as at present, from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, according to the work.

5378. Paid by the day?—Paid by the day.

5379. You do not employ your labourers by the job?—No, I have attempted it, but I have never succeeded well, not having a large number of resident labourers upon the property.

5380. You stated that your crops were improving?—They have improved gradually I should say.

5381. Have the labourers been working more continuously?—My reports lately from Jamaica, are, that they have improved in their habits of labour.

5382. Do you attribute any portion of the falling off in the produce of sugar to the seasons?—Certainly not; not the general falling off of the estates.

5383. The depressed state of agriculture in Jamaica, you conceive to be entirely owing to the want of continuous labour?—Decidedly.

5384. And that the introduction of machinery, or improved cultivation, is not likely materially to alter the state of things, so long as you want continuous labour?—No.

5385. You rely entirely upon an importation of labourers, to enable you to carry on the cultivation of sugar?—Yes.

5386. And until you obtain that you are not disposed to lay out capital upon improvement or upon machinery, or in any other way?—No.

5387. Why do you prefer the coast of Africa as the source of immigration?—From the 80 Africans that came in a captured vessel; I found them such an industrious and such a quiet race of people, that I think they are well suited and adapted to the cultivation of sugar in Jamaica, and to the climate.

5388. Do you contemplate obtaining labourers from the coast of Africa by means of Government aid, or by the individual enterprise of the holders of sugar estates?—I should trust that the aid of the Government would be granted to the importing of immigrants into Jamaica.

5389. Why should the public taxation be resorted to, to maintain the sugar estates in Jamaica?—From the impossibility in which the owners of sugar estates are of advancing the means of importing immigrants.

5390. Are you prepared to carry that principle out, and to apply it to any interest that may happen to be distressed at any time. Suppose the growers of wool in Australia should be distressed by the want of labour, and state that they could not maintain their sheep pastures, would you be disposed to advocate a public grant to aid them?—Certainly.

5391. Suppose the cotton manufacturers of England were in that distressed state that capital no longer yielded a fair profit, should you be prepared to advocate a public grant to aid them?—Certainly.

5392. Then any interest, whatever it be, being in distress, you would be disposed to resort to public taxation to assist it?—Yes.

5393. Mr. *Bankes.*] Do those captured Africans that you have spoken of, appear to have a wish to return to the country from which they have been brought?—No; they were so happy, as I understood by the interpreters who communicated between them and myself, that they would not go back on any account.

5394. How long had they been absent from their native soil?—They had been the voyage, that was all; the general voyage was about six weeks. In fact

fact they were terrified at the sight of a ship; they would not go near the sea-side, or face a boat of any kind.

5395. Was that from a dread of the voyage, or an indisposition to return home?—The tyranny they had met with both in their native country and in their voyage to the West Indies.

5396. It is your decided impression that they have no wish to return to their native soil?—None whatever.

5397. Have you ever made any calculation as to the expense at which you consider that labourers might be imported from the coast of Africa, per head?—I have no idea; it would depend entirely upon how it is managed. I think it may be done at very reasonable cost; but I have made no exact calculation.

5398. Do you think it could be accomplished at such a rate of cost as that those who are to benefit by the labour might defray the whole of that expense?—Certainly not.

5399. Are you able to state what proportion of that expense you think might be borne by those who would benefit by the labour?—No, I am not; in fact I know exactly my own situation, and I should say, that I could afford very little indeed to assist immigration with the present taxes that exist in the colony.

5400. Do not you consider that, supposing the expense to be spread over a number of years distant, a considerable proportion of it at least might be borne by those who were to benefit by the labour?—Yes, by a loan from Government, I think it might be done over the space of 10 or 12 years.

5401. Mr. *Hawes.*] You have stated that with regard to the sugar cultivation of Jamaica, it is absolutely necessary to continue the present protection granted to sugar in this market?—Yes.

5402. Any reduction of the duty on foreign sugar would add to the distress in Jamaica?—Yes.

5403. Has any attempt been made in Jamaica to lower the various local taxes?—Great attempts have been made, but it has been quite impossible, from the recommendations made to erect certain institutions, all which must come out of the expenditure of the island.

5404. Take the parish of St. James; it appears that the parochial salaries in the parish of St. James amount to 918*l.*; can you give the Committee any information upon that subject?—I do not think that any of those salaries are at all too much for the duties the parties have to perform.

5405. Will you state the parties, and the duties they have to perform?—I cannot enter into that minutely, but I know that some of them have considerable duties to perform; for instance, the clerk of the peace has very onerous duties to perform.

5406. Is he paid out of the parish rates?—He is paid out of the parish rates; the clerk of the vestry is paid out of the parish rates; all the clerks of the different churches are paid out of the rates, and all the constables; and there are many other officers that are paid.

5407. You think that no reduction could be made in the salaries which amount to nearly 1,000*l.* a year in that parish?—No; I happen to be a member of the vestry, and we used vast endeavours to reduce them as low as we could consistently with inducing respectable persons to undertake the duties.

5408. What is the salary of the clerk of the peace?—About 250 *l.*

5409. What is the salary of the clerk of the vestry?—About 300 *l.*

5410. What do you pay upon the average to the constables?—Last year we did away with the constables, and we substituted a police force for the constables.

5411. Can you say about what you paid the constables?—I cannot recollect.

5412. What other officers are there?—There are many incidental officers; there is a pound-keeper, there is a firewarden, and a coroner.

5413. Mr. *Bankes.*] It was of course your interest, you being a considerable landed proprietor in the colony, to keep those rates as low as you possibly could?—Decidedly it was, and I used always to be in a minority in consequence.

5414. Although you were in the minority, you think those charges that have been brought to your particular notice were not unreasonable?—No, I do not think they were unreasonable.

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5415. Mr. *Hawes.*] You think a charge of nearly 18,000 *l.* a year, for 21 parishes in Jamaica, for salaries, is a charge which is moderate, and consistent with economy?—I cannot say how the affairs of other parishes or other vestries are conducted; but I know, being a member of the vestry of St. Thomas's and Trelawney, that we do everything in our power to reduce the salaries of the officials.

5416. Have the taxes upon the sale of property attracted any attention in Jamaica?—I do not know whether they have.

5417. Have you sold land?—No, I have sold no land.

5418. Have you bought any?—Yes.

5419. Are the taxes heavy upon the purchase of property?—I cannot say, without reference to my solicitor; but in 1840 a Stamp Act was passed, and an additional tax was put upon most commissions to increase the revenue.

5420. Can you give the total cost of the Government expenditure, and the parochial expenditure of Jamaica entirely for the purposes of civil government?—I cannot separate it; but the whole amount is between 400,000 *l.* and 500,000 *l.* per annum.

5421. What is the amount of the white population in Jamaica?—About 35,000 at present.

5422. Is that 400,000 *l.* or 500,000 *l.* raised in the island by taxation?—Yes.

5423. In taxes upon the necessaries of life?—There is a tax upon the necessaries of life, a small import tax, but it is a very reduced one, and there is an export tax upon produce.

5424. Which is paid of course by the consumers generally?—Yes, generally, I suppose, paid by the consumer; the tax on imports brings in a large revenue, but it is very trifling indeed.

5425. Are the proprietors of Jamaica content to pay 400,000 *l.* or 500,000 *l.* a year for the government of the colony?—No, I think they would be glad to dispense with the payment of it; but in consequence of the immense expenditure lately, owing to the recommendations that have emanated from home for a public penitentiary, and for the police force, and for the clergy, and for prisons, it has been necessary for the House of Assembly to increase the revenue.

5426. But that increase of expenditure, being for temporary purposes, will cease?—Of course, after a certain time.

5427. The erection of prisons was a necessary expense, was it not?—Yes, I should say it was.

5428. The state of the prisons in the West Indies, previous to the Prisons' Act, perhaps you are acquainted with?—Yes, they were in a very inefficient state.

5429. May it not be said that they were in a very disgraceful state?—I will not go to that extent; I think they were not in an efficient state.

5430. Were you at all acquainted with the state of the prisons?—Yes, I have had something to do with them.

5431. Did you ever visit any of the prisons yourself?—Yes, both Trelawney and St. James's.

5432. When?—At different periods.

5433. Take the earliest period?—The earliest period was when I was made a magistrate in St. James's, which was in 1839.

5434. What was the state of that prison?—St. James's was not at all in a bad state; it is about one of the best local prisons there is. Trelawney was in a bad state.

5435. Then you visited the prison as a magistrate?—Yes.

5436. Did you make any report?—I never had an opportunity of visiting to make a report; my distance from the different towns was so great, that the local magistrates resident in the immediate neighbourhood took that duty upon themselves.

5437. When the prisons are erected and the police force established, and the other extraordinary expenses to which you have alluded, in consequence of the recommendations made by the Home Government, have been accomplished, what do you think then will be the expenditure of the island for the purposes of civil government?—That is a question that it is impossible to answer; for it will depend entirely upon the increase of the population, and the necessary increase of the police force, which is a very expensive force indeed.

5438. Do

5438. Do you calculate upon the police force increasing in proportion to the population?—Yes, I should think it will be necessary.

5439. You do not doubt the statements made as to the improved conduct of the labourers generally since emancipation?—Not at all, as to their general moral conduct.

5440. Are you acquainted generally with the report of the stipendiary magistrates upon the state of Jamaica?—No.

5441. Are you acquainted with the report made by Messrs. Finlayson and Laidlaw upon the parish of St. James?—No, I have not seen that; that is subsequent to my departure from the island.

5442. That report of Messrs. Finlayson and Laidlaw contains the following passage relating to the parish of St. James, upon which your opinion is asked: "They are in general anxious to procure employment; and when that cannot be obtained on the properties to which they were formerly attached, they seek for it on the adjoining estates; and when the usual rate of wages is offered, there seems to be little or no difficulty in procuring a sufficient supply of continuous labour"?—I must confess that I cannot believe that report, as a planter in the management of my own properties, from the difficulties I met with in obtaining labour.

5443. Has the complaint of the want of continuous labour increased or decreased within the last year?—I have been nearly absent a year; but I have heard that things have rather improved. There is still a complaint of want of sufficient labour.

5444. But the complaint has not been so general as it was?—I cannot say that, not having been there the last twelve months.

5445. You stated that no estates had been abandoned within your knowledge near your properties?—Not in my immediate neighbourhood.

5446. Has any new land been brought into cultivation?—To no very great extent. If new land has been brought into cultivation upon an estate, old land has been thrown out.

5447. The new land that has been brought into cultivation has simply been brought into cultivation because it has been fertile virgin land?—In consequence of being virgin soil, and likely to yield a larger return.

5448. Has that been done to any great extent?—I do not know whether it has been done to any great extent. I did it to the extent of 38 acres at a very large cost.

5449. Is that the only instance of an extension of cultivation that you know?—Yes; I do not know any other in my immediate neighbourhood.

5450. Have you heard of estates that have been abandoned?—Yes.

5451. Have you known of any estates that have been abandoned?—I do not know of any.

5452. Do you see them frequently advertised in the local papers?—Nobody will buy abandoned estates; but there are numerous advertisements of estates for sale.

5453. Have they been increasing of late years?—Yes; I know that of my own knowledge.

5454. Has it attracted your attention whether the number of advertisements of estates for sale has been greater in one part of the island than another?—No, I think it has been pretty general all over the island.

5455. Have you at all formed an opinion as to whether the estates so advertised, have been estates upon which the soil has been good, or upon which it has been indifferent?—I have known of no estates in my immediate neighbourhood that have been put up to sale, and of other estates I can only speak from what report states.

5456. You cannot state whether it is the poor land that has been thrown out of cultivation?—No, I cannot.

5457. Or whether they are the estates of absentees?—I believe that most of the estates that have been thrown up have been the estates of absentees.

5458. The income of a Jamaica proprietor is paid in the gross, is it not; that is to say, upon the produce of the estate, combining rent and profit; you do not obtain rent for your property; you obtain the produce of the estate?—Yes.

5459. In fact it is a species of manufacture?—Yes.

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5460. A species of manufacture conducted by the proprietor, residing at a very great distance from it generally?—In many instances.

5461. Did you ever hear of a manufacture answering, the proprietor of which resided at a great distance from it?—Only in the colonies.

5462. Do you think that such a state of things is likely to continue, seeing that competition is likely to increase in the sugar market?—That I cannot say.

5463. Have you felt the increased importation of sugar from the East Indies?—Yes.

5464. That has tended to reduce the price of sugar?—Yes.

5465. Supposing we should get Brazilian sugar, the probability is that the price would be still lowered?—Yes.

5466. That would be still more injurious to Jamaica?—Yes.

5467. And against such probable reductions in the price of sugar you have nothing to look to but the importation of labourers?—No; and even then I do not think we should be able to compete.

5468. Then immigration would not be a remedy?—Not if a reduction of the duties on foreign sugar is to take place.

5469. Mr. *Barclay.*] You mean if the duties were equalised?—If they were equalised.

5470. Mr. *Hawes.*] Do you contemplate any reduction in the price of provisions by the new Customs Duties Act now under the consideration of Parliament?—Yes; I should hope there would be a reduction in the price of commodities.

5471. Have you attended to that at all in detail?—No, I have not in detail.

5472. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] You say that you paid the labourers you got from contiguous estates 2*d.* a day more than those on your own estates; did that cause any offence to the proprietors of the neighbouring estates?—Considerable.

5473. Did they have recourse to the same means of getting labourers for their estates?—Some did.

5474. Did those labourers receive any other advantages beyond their wages?—None.

5475. Did the labourers upon your estates receive any other advantages beyond their wages?—No.

5476. With regard to those 80 Africans whom you have upon your estates, was there a jealousy on the part of the labourers with respect to them?—Yes.

5477. Did that increase or diminish?—It diminished entirely previous to my return to the island.

5478. Do you think that, in the event of an importation of Africans, there would be no danger that whatever confidence the labouring population have in the planters would be diminished?—No.

5479. Mr. *Bankes.*] How did you obtain those 80 Africans; did you obtain the whole number that were captured?—No; there were about 400, and different parties took them under apprenticeship from the Government for 12 months.

5480. How were they distributed?—A considerable number were enlisted into the West India regiments, and the rest, those that made the first applications, had the advantage of them.

5481. Was there a very considerable application for them?—Very considerable competition.

5482. Was there any premium given for them as apprentices?—Yes; there was a premium given to procure them; the parties that procured them had to pay the whole expense, from the time they landed till the time they went upon the property.

5483. *Chairman.*] You have been asked with reference to a possible reduction in the expense of cultivation, on account of the proprietor residing upon his estate; in the event of the proprietor so residing, what saving would he effect?—He would save the salary of the manager.

5484. Would he save anything more?—No.

5485. What is the amount of the salary?—It varies.

5486. Do you think the influence and authority of a resident proprietor could not cause more economical arrangements in any respect?—If it was generally

generally adopted; but for an isolated individual going there it would be no advantage, but rather an injury.

5487. Is the police efficient and sufficiently numerous for the purpose?—At present it is.

5488. You have expressed an opinion that the aid of the Government ought to be given in the furtherance of immigration. When you so speak, do you mean that they ought to give pecuniary aid?—Yes.

5489. Are you aware what would be the amount of the expense per head, of introducing Africans?—No, I could not answer that.

5490. Would you recommend that the introduction of immigrants should be under the superintendence of a Government agent, and controlled by Government authority?—Yes.

5491. Mr. *Barclay.*] You were understood to say, that you conceive that a loan from the Government, applied to the introduction of Africans, might, in about the course of 10 years, be repaid by those who should benefit by their labours?—I think it might be, but I am not quite ready to say that it would be, from circumstances that have come under my own individual notice, with respect to estates burnt down in Jamaica, during the rebellion of 1830. The parties that got the Government loan then, have been unable up to this day to meet the claim; they have been only able to pay the interest upon the loan, they have been unable to pay off any part of the capital.

5492. Mr. *Hawes.*] Is the population increasing upon your estates?—Yes, it is.

5493. When you state that the expenses of the estates would only be reduced to the extent of the managers' salaries, by the proprietor residing on them, do you mean to say that you know no instances in which proprietors have managed their own estates, where they have saved more than the mere salaries?—The expense of a proprietor residing upon his property is greater than what he can live for in England.

5494. Do you know any instances in which parties have made their own estates answer, which in other hands have not succeeded?—Yes, I have known several instances of that.

5495. How do you account for that?—That was during the state of slavery; I have known parties that have resided upon their properties during the time I was in the island, and who have taken no active management of those estates.

5496. Mr. *Bankes.*] Were you rightly understood to say that the expense of living in Jamaica, to the proprietor, is greater than in England?—Yes.

Veneris, 24° die Junii, 1842.

PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Mr. Godson.
Mr. Barclay.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Sir Charles Douglas.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Hinton Spalding, Esq. M.D. called in; and Examined.

5497. *Chairman.*] HOW long have you resided in the island of Jamaica?—Since 1816, with occasional absences.

5498. When did you leave it?—On the 30th of March last I left Jamaica.

5499. During that long residence, what has been your occupation in the island of Jamaica?—I was engaged in the practice of my profession in the city of Kingston till March 1835; since then I have been occupied in the island, looking after my plantations.

5500. Are you a proprietor of plantations in Jamaica?—I am the proprietor of five coffee plantations.

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5501. Since 1835, have you been resident on, or had the management of those plantations?—I had the management of them till 1837, when I came home, and was absent till 1839; and since that period, I have been resident proprietor, in charge of my plantations.

5502. Were those five plantations contiguous?—No; two of them were contiguous, one within eight miles of these, and the other two were nearly adjoining, in a different district, about 60 miles off, in the parish of Manchester.

5503. Did you manage those which were contiguous?—I had the management of them all as the superintending manager; and I resided on the one called Hermitage, in St. George's.

5504. Will you state what was the nature of the cultivation of those five estates?—The cultivation was of coffee altogether; except one, which comprised a breeding-pen or farm.

5505. They were four coffee plantations and one pen?—Coffee was also cultivated upon the pen; it was orignally a very extensive coffee plantation, but the land which has gone out, has been turned into a grazing farm.

5506. Were there none of them that were sugar estates?—None; but I had charge of a sugar estate also.

5507. Where was that?—In the parish of Clarendon; a sugar estate, called Saint Toolies, of which I am receiver in Chancery.

5508. Are you a Member of the House of Assembly?—I am.

5509. How long have you been a Member of the House of Assembly?—Only during the last session.

5510. In what county, and in what parish, are those estates of yours situated?—One is in the parish of St. George's; the other, adjoining it, runs into the parish of St. Andrew; the third is in the parish of St. Mary; the two first mentioned are in the county of Surrey; the one in St. Mary is in the county of Middlesex; the other two, Grove and Lancaster, are in the parish of Manchester, in the county of Middlesex.

5511. You stated that you had the care of one sugar estate?—Yes.

5512. Was that sugar estate your property?—No; I am in possession of it as a receiver of the Court of Chancery, and I am trustee also for it.

5513. Had you been in the management of it up to the period of your leaving Jamaica?—I did not interfere during my last visit to Jamaica, because there were two other receivers; and I beg leave to state to the Committee, that I do not profess myself to be acquainted with sugar cultivation. There is only one fact I should like to mention with respect to that estate, which is, that the returns were so inadequate to the carrying it on, that the Chancellor was pleased to sanction an application of a part of the compensation funds, which was part of the corpus of the estate, to carry on the cultivation of the estate, hoping that times may mend, and that we may be able to restore that money again into the receiver-general's hands.

5514. Was that sugar plantation near your residence at Hermitage?—No; far from it; 80 miles.

5515. I believe there is a large proportion of the island of Jamaica, a large majority, uncultivated, is there not?—A very great.

5516. Are many of the large uncultivated districts near to the Hermitage Estate and others where you have been residing?—There is in the immediate vicinity of Hermitage a very extensive range of mountain land, wood land.

5517. Is all that unreclaimed mountain land covered with wood?—Yes, all in natural wood, virgin wood.

5518. What is the expense per acre of reclaiming land, primitive land, so covered with wood?—We used to pay from 7 *l.* to 8 *l.* per acre for the felling and clearing up of the land fit for the planting of coffee.

5519. Seven pounds or 8 *l.* currency?—Yes.

5520. That would make that land fit for cultivation?—Would prepare it for cultivation for the planting of coffee.

5521. What is the 7 *l.* or 8 *l.* currency sterling?—About 4 *l.* 10 *s.* sterling

5522. On these estates, with which you have been much conversant, what has been your practice as to the occupation of houses and land by your labourers?—The labourers remain in the same houses, those that chose to remain on the property, which they occupied during slavery; and on one of my plantations from the commencement, the Grove, I never charged them rent. On the others we did exact a rent of a shilling a week for the house and grounds.

5523. What

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5523. What is your reason for drawing that distinction between the Grove estate and the others?—I was not in the country at the time the final abolition of apprenticeship took place, and it was universally the practice in the neighbourhood of the Hermitage to charge rent; but in Manchester, some did charge rent, and some did not.

5524. Mr. *Godson.*] Did you not say that the estate was unproductive?—The sugar estate; I am now speaking of the coffee estates.

5525. *Chairman.*] From the evidence we have received before this Committee, I am disposed to conclude that in by far the greater part of Jamaica, it is the general custom to make the labourers pay rent for the land they occupy; do you confirm that impression?—Yes, it is the general custom to do so; but I have found on that plantation, Grove, which I have mentioned, where I did not charge rent, that my population has increased. I ought partly to ascribe that to the circumstance of my having there two-thirds of females nearly to one-third of males, and the husbands of some of these women came to the Grove, I dare say, because they paid no rent, and got good grounds without any exaction in return; and I have now given up charging rent on all my estates, except Platfield. I thought it might be an inducement to the labourers to remain, many of whom were hiring land and purchasing land. One of the plantations, called West Prospect, I am sorry to say, I have been obliged altogether to abandon, or rather the population have abandoned it; they have hired land in the neighbourhood, and some of them have purchased land and have left it, and my coffee field is now in ruin.

5526. Is that one of the three plantations contiguous to your residence?—It is immediately contiguous to Hermitage.

5527. Are you rightly understood to say that you have now abandoned the system of charging rent to your labourers on all your plantations?—On Hermitage and on Lancaster, and on Grove.

5528. On the others, you still charge it?—I have not given it up at Platfield; they still pay the shilling a week.

5529. Do you find a dislike on the part of the negroes to pay any rent?—It gave rise to constant quarrelling and disputes between the overseers and the negroes, inasmuch as they cannot keep an account of what is due to them, and with some of them, perhaps from misstating what is due, and others from a desire to overreach, or from a suspicion of their not getting what was exactly due to them, it gave rise to constant disputes between them and the overseers; and I was glad to adopt any measure which I thought likely to conduce to my object of keeping the labourers on the estates, and to prevent their leaving them to hire land, or purchase land elsewhere.

5530. You were understood to say that those disputes arose rather from doubts on the part of the negro as to the amount of wages due to him; I do not understand how those disputes about wages were settled by taking off so direct an easy payment as the shilling a week for rent?—When you were going to pay them their wages they did not like to see a part of it either taken back or withheld as rent.

5531. In fact it comes to this, that it was not so much a matter of dispute as, in point of fact, they disliked the deduction of rent for wages?—Yes.

5532. Did you find that the exaction of rent had in any degree a tendency to create, on the part of the negro, feelings of local attachment, and make him unwilling to leave the property where he resided, and give him an interest in what he rented?—No.

5533. You found no such advantage?—No.

5534. Have you found that, since you abandoned the custom of rent, that your supply of labour has been better, and that the negroes are more willing to come to you?—I gave up the exaction of rent at Hermitage only since the 1st of January 1842, but they had actually paid the rent for a month or two, for January and February, and I directed the overseers to return that money to them, stating that the new system should commence from the 1st of January.

5535. And in the case of the other estate where you never exacted rent, you think it doubtful whether the greater number of labourers you had there proceeded from the advantage of paying no rent, or from the attraction of an additional number of women on that estate?—I have no doubt both operated; I have no doubt the non-exaction of the rent prevented some going who might

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otherwise have left the property, but I have no doubt also that the husbands of some of the women were induced to settle there and join their wives, instead of carrying them from the property for the purpose of enjoying the advantage of living without paying rent.

5536. Were these payments of rent the subject of any contract?—Not any written contract; it was an understood thing that they were to pay each 1*s.* a week for their houses and grounds?—The men paid 1*s.* and the women paid 1*s.* too.

5537. Was that carried any further; did they pay 1*s.* a head for all the house?—No; if a man had a woman, she paid 1*s.* also.

5538. Did you stipulate that the persons so living in your cottages should work on the estate where they lived?—I did not so stipulate, but I gave them to understand that if they did not consider the field as partly appertaining to themselves, out of which they were to draw a certain revenue, as well as belonging to me—if they showed an utter indifference to the state of my field, that I could not of course allow them to remain on the property if they absented themselves habitually from work.

5539. Did you ever eject men from their houses and lands on the ground that they had not worked for you?—No.

5540. What quantity of land did each labourer occupy in the way of provision grounds?—It was not measured off to them; in general they occupied from an acre to two acres, but they had all the same patches of ground that they held during slavery; and if even a person died, the family took possession of that, and considered it as their own, and worked it.

5541. Did they pay rent for the provision grounds as well as the houses?—No.

5542. What notice did you consider to be required before you could eject a labourer from his house?—The tenancy was a weekly one, and therefore a week's notice was considered to be sufficient; but I do not believe it was acted on to that extreme limit, and they were always allowed to take away the growing crop of provisions; any of my labourers who left the property took away the growing crop of provisions, even after they had abandoned it.

5543. Have you generally found that the men who resided on your property gave you continuous work?—Certainly not; I had no command over them in that respect.

5544. How many days in the week did they usually work for you?—They never worked more than four days in the week until the last crop, at Hermitage, when out of a good feeling to me they were prevailed on to work six days, in order to secure the crop. I explained to them that I had paid them largely for all the previous cultivation, and it was hard they should leave my field covered with ripe coffee during three days of the week out of the seven, at the mercy of the rats and birds and lizards, which prove very destructive to our crops; and upon that they agreed to work six days, and did so to secure my crop, and showed a very good feeling; on which I sent my mules to market, which was 25 miles off, to bring up provisions for them at the market price.

5545. You appealed to their good feeling, and that appeal was successful?—In that case.

5546. For how long did they continue to work six days in the week?—During the taking off the crop.

5547. How long?—That varies from time to time, because the crop coming from different blossoms, it ripens at different periods; but so long as it was necessary.

5548. Give the Committee some general idea of the time?—Perhaps two months.

5549. With that exception of your having so appealed to their good feeling during the crop time of last year, how many days in the week did you generally find that your men worked for you?—The labourers never turned out to work, with that exception, on Fridays and Saturdays, and I could not reckon upon any given number of hands in the field, although they were resident on the property. I sometimes would meet them on the road going to market, or going out to visit their friends, or some other excuse which they made for their absence from the property.

5550. Did they usually work as much as four days?—No.

5551. Can you state, on an average, how many days in a week each labourer worked?—Some two, some three, and some four days.

5552. It was quite uncertain, in the case of every individual labourer, whether he would work two or four days?—Quite uncertain.

5553. Did you ever find this uncertainty extended to a longer period, and that they would absent themselves for a week or weeks together?—Yes, I have known that also. In such a case I have told them I must be under the necessity of sending them from the property, or if they did remain on the property, they must do their duty to me, as well as follow out their own interests, or that the property must be ultimately abandoned.

5554. Was that successful?—Yes, it was, in one or two cases.

5555. Did you ever try the experiment of refusing payment for the work done during the week unless the labourer worked five days in the week?—No.

5556. Did you ever hear of that experiment being tried by other proprietors?—At one time I gave orders to double the rent if they did not work the four days.

5557. Did you carry that order into effect?—It was carried into effect.

5558. You imposed, in the shape of rent, a sort of fine on those labourers who did not work?—On those who pertinaciously refused to work on the property.

5559. Did you consider that to be a legal proceeding?—Perfectly so; I gave a week's notice of it.

5560. Having so given a week's notice of it, would the magistrates of the country bear you out in the performance of that?—I believe they would.

5561. Did you ever try it?—No.

5562. Did your labourers subscribe to this condition?—They paid the double rent in the very few cases in which it was done.

5563. What did you find to be the success of it; was it such as to induce, on the part of the labourer, more continuous work?—That they did work more continuously.

5564. That it succeeded?—Yes.

5565. Did you try the experiment on all the estates?—No, only on that one, Hermitage. I had no occasion elsewhere; no crying occasion.

5566. Had you not reason to complain of the want of continuous labour on the other estates?—Yes.

5567. Why had you no occasion to resort to so obvious a remedy?—Because on this plantation, Hermitage, the absence was so extensive, and the requirements of labour so claimant, that I was induced to try that remedy, that painful remedy to me.

5568. In the other case of the irregularity of labour, although you had to complain of it, it was not sufficient to induce you to try that strong remedy?—It was not; I was not in such peril as I was at Hermitage.

5569. Had you any reason to complain of the bad quality, as well as the want of quantity of the work?—Yes.

5570. You have found particularly that the work has been done in a slovenly and unsatisfactory manner?—In many cases.

5571. When such cases occurred, what has been your remedy?—I have not taken them before the magistrate, or made any complaint of it, further than reproving them, and getting the overlooker, who is one of their own colour, to reprimand them for it.

5572. Have those reprimands been effectual?—Sometimes they were; in other cases they gave great dissatisfaction, they could not bear to be reproved, some of them left the property in consequence of it.

5573. Did you ever try to compel them to do the work over again when it was badly done?—No; I do not recollect that I did.

5574. Did you ever try the experiment of stopping the payment for the work that was badly done?—No.

5575. Were they not two obvious courses to take?—They were; but we were in such alarm as to taking any measures to exact justice from our labourers in these respects, being so completely in their power, that we would rather put up with it than take any harsh measures.

5576. When you use the word "alarm," you were afraid they should leave your property altogether?—Yes.

5577. And so great was the extent of that alarm, that you preferred putting

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up with any work however badly it might be done, to the risk of losing the work they gave?—Yes.

5578. In consequence of that feeling of alarm, did you never in any case apply to the justices of the county for protection against this bad work?—No.

5579. Had you so done, would those justices have protected you, and compelled a better performance of the labour?—I rather think they would.

5580. Have you any reason to complain in the part of Jamaica in which you live, of the want of a greater number of magistrates in the county?—Very great indeed; when I have had occasion to go to the courts, which has been only two or three times, I have not been able to get a decision until I had gone the third time; I travelled a distance of 28 miles three times before I obtained a hearing of my case.

5581. Do you mean the distance was 14 miles or 28 miles?—Fourteen.

5582. And what was the cause of your being obliged to go that distance before you got a decision?—On one occasion the magistrates were not in sufficient number to form a court.

5583. What number does constitute a court?—Two; on that occasion they had only one magistrate present; on the next occasion the clerk of the peace was not present.

5584. How often do the justices sit?—Once a week.

5585. How many are there resident within the circle of that district in which you have so frequently been unable to find a sufficient number?—I think four.

5586. Is their attendance entirely optional?—Quite so.

5587. Out of those four, how many stipendiary justices are there?—One stipendiary.

5588. Does he always attend?—No, not always; I have seen him absent too.

5589. Is it not always his duty to attend?—Yes; but he was prevented, probably, by bad health.

5590. When you said you had made three journeys before you could obtain justice, do you mean you went three successive weeks, and one of those occasions you found only one justice?—On one occasion one justice; on the next occasion the clerk of the peace was not in attendance.

5591. Is there any arrangement among these justices of the division that they should attend in regular succession, so as to relieve each other?—In some of the parishes there is a "roaster" kept, and certain parties are expected to attend on given days, and they have notice of that; but in this parish that has not been the practice—in the parish of St. George.

5592. On one occasion, you say, justice was defeated by the absence of the clerk of the peace; is he not an officer bound to attend?—He is, but he was sick.

5593. Has he no substitute?—He can substitute a person, but he had not done so on that occasion.

5594. Is it not probable that such circumstances as you have detailed to the Committee, might operate very injuriously to the planters and the negroes both?—Yes, no doubt.

5595. Would not such circumstances as you have mentioned, form an appeal to the higher authorities of the island, with a view of enforcing a more regular practice?—No question of it.

5596. Are there any estates situate at a greater distance from the sessional court than yours?—I do not think there are in that parish.

5597. You are on the outside of it?—Yes, the outskirts.

5598. Are the distances about the same always?—No, they vary very much.

5599. Would it be desirable, to prevent the difficulty you have mentioned, that a larger number of justices should be in the division?—I think it would; but I hope the appointment of chairman of the quarter sessions will have the beneficial effect of rendering justice more easily attainable.

5600. How could the fact of there being a chairman of quarter sessions render more regular the attendance of justices in petty sessions in any division?—Because the local justices would have less objection to associating with the chairman of quarter sessions than they have had with the stipendiary magistrates, between whom and themselves hitherto a great deal of dissension and dissatisfaction has existed.

5601. Do you think this irregular attendance of the justices arises from the dislike of acting with the stipendiary justices?—I cannot say, in the particular case to which I allude, that that is the cause; I cannot ascribe motives, but I have no doubt in many cases it has been the case.

5602. How can the appointment of chairmen of quarter sessions have any bearing on that; will you explain that?—I mean that the chairman of the quarter sessions holding his courts more regularly, more punctually; and also the influence that an appeal to his court would have over the administration of justice, will have a beneficial effect.

5603. The chairman of quarter sessions would not act, usually speaking, at these petty sessions?—No.

5604. How many quarter sessional districts are there in Jamaica?—I think, 12.

5605. In what quarter sessional district do you reside?—In that of Portland and St. George's.

5606. How many petty sessional divisions are there in that quarter sessional district?—To St. George's only can I speak, and there are three.

5607. Would that be, to the best of your judgment, about the average divisions of each quarter sessional district?—Some of the parishes are larger, but I am not acquainted with the fact.

5608. What class of persons, for the most part, are the unpaid magistracy?—They are generally proprietors.

5609. By whom appointed?—By the Governor, recommended by the custos of the parish.

5610. You think it would be desirable to have the number increased?—Yes.

5611. Have you many instances of appeals for justice by the negro to the courts of quarter session?—I am not aware of any.

5612. Do you believe that either on the part of the negro, or on the part of the proprietor, appeals for justice to the petty sessions are prevented by the irregularity of attendance on the part of the magistrates, which you have mentioned?—I have no doubt that negroes have suffered, and they have complained to myself of the great inconvenience of having to frequent the courts and lose their time, both as witnesses and as prosecutors and defendants, in cases of that kind; but in that particular district, I hope it is in some measure remedied by the subdivision of the two parishes of St. Mary and St. George, portions of them being now formed into a new parish called Metcalf. My labourers told me at the Hermitage, that they would not again go to Buff Bay, which was a distance of 24 miles, and to return, nearly 50 miles of travelling, which they could not accomplish in a day, if they were summoned there, either by parties in criminal or in civil cases; they would not go there, for there was no accommodation for themselves or their horses when they rode there; nothing for them to eat.

5613. In the event of your finding it necessary to summon negroes before the court of petty sessions for the slovenly performance of their work, are the laws sufficient to give you protection?—I believe they are.

5614. Has it been your custom, on your estates, to pay your labourers by the day or by the task?—There are some works which we cannot pay them for by the task, such as the pruning of coffee, which is a very nice operation; and it can be easily understood, when a tree has got into a matted and disordered state, that a very easy remedy is to apply the knife to the main branch, instead of taking out only those smaller subsidiary branches that are faulty, and if they were employed by the task, by the acre, in that way, they would probably resort to that means, and ruin a field; therefore we pay them by the day; and pay them at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, for such work. But in the cleaning of coffee, we pay them by the number of trees; they are paid at Hermitage 1*s.* for every 100 trees, that are planted five feet square.

5615. I understood you to say, in some cases you paid them by the day, and in some cases by the task, according to the nature of the work?—Yes; in working by the task they may clean 200, 300, or 400 trees, and so make 2*s.* or 3*s.* or 4*s.* a day.

5616. They prefer the task?—They prefer the task; but generally, when they have finished 200 they retire from the field, at 11 or 12 o'clock in the forenoon.

5617. You pay 1*s.* a task?—Yes.

 5618. Currency

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5618. Currency or sterling?—Sterling.

5619. How long does the performance of a task occupy an able-bodied and industrious negro?—They can do two tasks in a day. They generally commence about six in the morning.

5620. How much do you pay by the day?—A shilling a day.

5621. Then the payment by the day is very disadvantageous to the negro?—He can make much more by the task; in working by the day he gives a very inferior quantum of work.

5622. How many hours do you exact for a day's work?—Nine hours.

5623. Do you mean, for 1 *s.* the negro has to work nine hours?—Yes; it is not assiduous work; it is with as many interruptions as he can conveniently make excuses for.

5624. He remains on the ground nine hours?—He remains in the field nine hours; but he takes an hour and a half for the purposes of breakfast and dinner.

5625. Is not that payment of 1 *s.* a day quite out of proportion with the payment of 1 *s.* a task?—No, because the labourer, who is paramount in regulating this matter, will only do one task when employed nominally by the day; the single task can be accomplished by nine or ten o'clock, a.m.; we therefore always clean the fields by the task, as described at Hermitage, and only pay there 1 *s.* per day for detached jobs, such as mending fences, billing pastures, &c. &c.

5626. Which do you prefer?—I would rather pay by the task, because they do not do a day's work when employed by the day nominally.

5627. In some cases wages by the task run up to 4 *s.* or 5 *s.* a day?—Yes, 4 *s.* a day.

5628. You would rather do that than pay by the day?—Yes, because I want labour.

5629. Are these wages the subject of any contract?—Not of any written contract; it is the understood rate of wages in the district.

5630. Have they fluctuated at all since the commencement of freedom?—No.

5631. The wages have remained the same?—Yes.

5632. Are they wages that you think you could well afford to pay?—Certainly not.

5633. Could you afford to pay them, supposing you had the command of continuous work from your negroes?—When employed in the way I have spoken of, cleaning the coffee costs about four dollars the acre, that is, 16 *s.* or 17 *s.* 6*d.* an acre, which is a great deal more than we could afford to pay for hoeing the ground.

5634. If your labourers work for you regularly and industriously, the rate of wages is higher than you could afford?—In that district and that property.

5635. Have you ever tried to lower those wages?—I have endeavoured to induce the negroes to take up a field by the acre; I have for that purpose got one of my labourers and companion to take up an acre of coffee, which they cleaned off in 18 hours, and for that I paid them 12 *s.*; but I could not, although they had set an example by showing what could be done, induce the rest of the people to do so. They found that [redacted] other plan was much more profitable, inasmuch as they got 17 *s.* 6 *d.*, instead of 12 *s.*, on the old plan.

5636. The upshot is, that you have tried the experiment of lowering wages, and failed?—Yes.

5637. Did you persevere any length of time in that experiment?—I had it not in my power to insist on the experiment being tried to any extent; my only object was to show the people what could be done, and what emolument they would have from it.

5638. Had you not it in your power to say, the rate of wages was higher than you could afford to pay, and therefore you must reduce them?—Certainly not.

5639. Why had you not the power?—Because they would refuse to work, and leave the property.

5640. Supposing your neighbours to a considerable extent had agreed on it, and joined with you to lower wages to what you could afford to pay, would that make the experiment more successful?—I think not; when labourers possess such a facility of supplying all their wants, and even the superfluities and comforts of life, they cannot be controlled by the planters.

5641. At

5641. At the wages which you now pay, and taking of course into consideration the advantage of the provision grounds, do you find your labourers, working as they do, two, three, or four days in the week, are enabled to enrich themselves to such an extent as to purchase property?—Decidedly they are, and have purchased property from myself.

5642. You stated that you obtained six days' continuous labour from your labourers, and there the inducement was a personal one towards yourself, and not the wish of enriching themselves?—Not at all; they thought, and I considered they were doing me a favour, and they seldom come into the field to work, when they do not feel that they are doing you a favour rather than that they are urged by any necessity or motives of their own.

5643. Have you generally, notwithstanding this deficiency of work, continued on good and friendly terms with your labourers?—Quite so.

5644. Do you know many other instances of similar good feeling on the part of the labourers?—No, I do not; I have no doubt such appeals have been made.

5645. Do you think, from your knowledge of negro character, that such appeals, if more general, would be successful?—I think that they would not; because, although they might for a time, I doubt very much whether upon a future occasion they would have answered if applied to in the same way. I have no reliance on that.

5646. How many classes of labourers have you on your coffee plantation?—We have only two now, the able labourers and a very few young persons about the age of 10, who work for hire.

5647. Do the women work?—Fully as much as the men; more assiduously.

5648. Can you state to the Committee what is the difference, if any, in the number of labourers residing on your estates, between the latter years of slavery and the present period of freedom?—At the Grove I have had a slight increase in the number of labourers, but that has not compensated for the want of continuous labour there. At Lancaster, in the same parish of Manchester, the numbers have greatly diminished. At Platfield they have increased in consequence of the circumstance I mentioned, that they returned from the locality where I had placed them, to their old locality of Platfield, from which I had removed them; but the consequence is, that I had a great diminution in the labourers at the Hermitage, and at West Prospect all the labourers have deserted the latter plantation and purchased or hired land in the neighbourhood or elsewhere.

5649. Are you able to state to the Committee with respect to the whole five, what is the ratio of reduction in numbers?—I should say about half.

5650. You think you have only half now that you had in slavery?—Yes.

5651. In so speaking, are you speaking of the total numbers, or available labourers?—The total numbers.

5652. What has become of the remainder, the half that have left you, where are they?—They have gone to different districts where land was to be purchased.

5653. Are they still within reach of you?—Some of them are, but some are not.

5654. Do you find that those who have purchased land, and settled on land within reach of you, give you their labour?—They do when it suits their purpose.

5655. But not regularly?—Not when I require them.

5656. What quantity of land have they for the most part purchased?—Some as much as 10 acres. I have sold two, four, six, eight, ten acres to different parties of the very land they formerly cultivated as slaves.

5657. At what price per acre?—At 6 *l.* per acre sterling.

5658. In the case of the larger purchases of the eight and 10 acres, is the negro able to live on the proceeds of that land, or is he obliged to work?—He could live very well on the proceeds of one acre.

5659. Where they purchase so much as 10 acres, how do they cultivate it?—They only cultivate a part at present, but they wish to have an extent of land to fall back on after that is exhausted.

5660. In those two cases out of the five estates, in which the number of labourers has actually increased, do you find that the quantity of labour has increased in proportion?—Decidedly not.

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5661. Has it greatly diminished?—Greatly diminished.

5662. Has the whole labour you got on the five estates diminished beyond the ratio of the decrease in the number of labourers?—Yes, very much so.

5663. In consequence of the irregularity of the work?—Yes; and they only work four days in the week, even if they work continuously.

5664. Notwithstanding that reduction, do you think you could carry on profitably those five estates, if the men who are there were industrious and continuous in their work?—One of them has been almost entirely abandoned, West Prospect. Hermitage has been so unproductive for the last three years, that is to say, that it has cost so much more than the proceeds of the crop, that I have determined only to continue it one year longer, trusting that something may occur to preserve me from ruin there. At Platfield, from the return of persons to that plantation, I have found labour sufficient to carry on the cultivation of a small coffee-field, which is now there, and I am trying to put in a fresh field there. But in the cultivation of coffee, the Committee must be aware that we have no return for our capital for the first three, and sometimes four or five years. And there is a constant outgoing of capital for the purpose of keeping it in order, which of course is laid out expecting the future returns to compensate for it.

5665. In what proportion has the produce of coffee diminished since the commencement of freedom on those estates?—More than one-half.

5666. How many days' labour did you exact from your slaves in emancipation?—During slavery they worked five days in one week and six days in the other; during apprenticeship they worked 40½ hours, and therefore the number of days depended on whether they worked on the nine or the eight hours' plan.

5667. How many hours did they work during the five or six days?—In the longer days, in the month of April on to September, they turned out at six in the morning and worked till four, and in the shorter days, from September to March, they turned out at seven in the morning and worked till four, with an interval of an hour and a half for their breakfast and dinner.

5668. Can you state in what manner the cultivation of an estate is prejudiced by the want of labour being more continuous?—The cultivation of coffee, if it is not perfect and complete, very soon ruins the field; the trees get covered with weeds; the weeds abstract a great portion of the nourishment from the soil, which ought to go to the trees; the consequence is, that the lower branches of the shrubs die off; and we are in some districts very much annoyed with the parasitic plants, which spring very rapidly and cover the tree, and actually kill all the branches of it, so that if it bears a little fruit the fruit is blasted by the hog-meat or parasitic plants which cover the trees. Six months of neglect will very much injure a coffee plantation, and 12 months bring total ruin.

5669. You require continuous labour then to check the rank growth of those weeds?—Yes.

5670. Have you any immigrants on your estates?—I have had a number of liberated Africans, which I got from a ship that brought them to Port Antonio.

5671. When?—In October 1839; I have got 38 of them, but three of them were in a dying state from dysentery when they were brought up, and altogether I think I lost nine of them. Some of them got dissatisfied, and were led away by a leader of the name of Thomas, of the Mundingo nation; one of them hung himself when his countrymen left the property; another was killed by an accident, by falling from a tree; so that there remained altogether about 70 odd of those on the property for the twelvemonth during which they were indented to me.

5672. Did you lose those that were led away, altogether?—No; the magistrates made them return again.

5673. Were they bound to you?—By an indenture for 12 months.

5674. Where did those Africans come from?—They were captured by one of our ships of war, and brought into Port Antonio.

5675. Were they in a barbarous state when you got them?—No, I do not think they were; they were not more uncivilised than many of our Creole negroes.

5676. They were freshly taken from Africa when they were captured?—Just on their passage to Cuba.

5677. Where

5677. Were they Christians?—No.

5678. Did they become Christians?—I have a clergyman at Hermitage who has been endeavouring to instruct them in Christianity.

5679. After you got them were they educated?—They had an opportunity of being educated, but they did not seem desirous to avail themselves of it, except one or two.

5680. Were they willing to work?—Quite so.

5681. How did you pay them?—I paid them as by the agreement. I fed and clothed them for the first 12 months during the time they were engaged to me, and gave them 6 *d.* a day when at work, and they had a cottage and ground, and medical attendance. I had a medical practitioner to attend them.

5682. How did you pay them after the 12 months had expired?—Just as I paid the other persons who were labourers residing on the property.

5683. Have they continued to work for you?—Yes, they have; a certain number, about 40.

5684. After the expiration of 12 months they were free to work or remain idle, just as much as the Creole negroes?—Yes, or go anywhere they pleased.

5685. Do you find them more willing to work than the Creole negroes?—I think they are.

5686. What has their general conduct been; have they been steady and well conducted?—Very; they seem not less intelligent than our Creole negroes; what they chiefly wanted was a knowledge of our language, for when the head man, Thomas, who was very intelligent, and who readily comprehended what was said to him by signs, turned round and explained to them, in their own language, what was to be done, they seemed immediately to comprehend it thoroughly.

5687. Did they do more work in the day than you could get from the Creoles?—Not more, but as much latterly under instruction.

5688. You made a statement to the Committee, a short time since, of the number of negroes on your estates; did you include this accession of immigrants?—No.

5689. Are they in addition to the number you stated?—Yes.

5690. Have you found that their introduction has produced any effect either on the wages or the supply of labour by the resident negroes?—I thought at first it had that effect; I expected that it would. When the people saw nearly 100 persons march up the glen or valley, they seemed very much astonished; and I told them that if they did not make the property productive, and work faithfully and reasonably, the result would be that we should be obliged to get a great number of these foreigners to come to our assistance; and in their own language, I told them that "Buckra was a knowing fellow," and that he would take care to bring a great accession of labourers from other quarters to keep up the cultivation, and make himself independent of them.

5691. Did you find the introduction of these immigrants produce any permanent effect on the industry of your resident negroes?—It did not.

5692. Did it enable you to reduce the wages of the resident negroes?—It did not.

5693. Do you stand in need of further immigration?—Yes; very much indeed.

5694. To what extent?—I should take 300 more.

5695. Do you consider immigration the best remedy for the state of distress you have been representing?—It is the only remedy I know of.

5696. Has no other remedy ever suggested itself to you?—No other. I have tried every remedy. I tried the only power that was left to me; the only controlling influence was the rent which I mentioned, by which I endeavoured to procure more labour from my people; but I did not succeed in that, and I have therefore given it up altogether. The only other remedy to which I can turn my eye, after most mature consideration, is immigration; but I beg leave to state to the Committee, that cannot be carried on by individuals. It is quite impossible that an individual can undertake it, for after he has brought these persons to his plantation, and has instructed them, and seasoned them to the climate, and lost all their labour while undergoing that seasoning, they are quite at liberty to go elsewhere, and are very readily induced by parties who have not undergone that expense, and trouble, and anxiety (which it

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was my fate to undertake); by paying a small sum additional, they would leave him and go to another.

5697. Have you, as a proprietor and member of the Assembly, directed serious attention to the subject of immigration into Jamaica?—Very serious attention.

5698. Can you state what you conceive would be the requisite number of immigrants to support the cultivation of the whole island?—I should say at least 25,000.

5699. Do you think a total number of 25,000 would restore the cultivation of the island?—It would go far towards effecting that object, for not only should we have the additional labour of those introduced, but it would excite a competition among our labourers now in the island.

5700. There would be many classes of negroes, among whom no such effect of competition could be produced; namely, among that class who have purchased properties sufficient to maintain them?—Certainly, it could have no such influence on them; and there are a great many such.

5701. With respect to those who are still depending on labour, you anticipate the introduction of this large number of immigrants would excite such a competition with respect to wages, and make you more independent of them?—Certainly more independent of our present labourers; but those who have purchased land, and are working that land for their own purposes, many of them do not come near any plantation now at all. I met some of those who were on my properties formerly; I asked them, "Why do not you come and help us with the crops?" and the answer was, that they had enough of work, and plenty to keep them at home.

5702. Do you know at what cost per head negroes can be imported into Jamaica?—Those who have been imported cost about 12 *l.* and a few shillings per caput.

5703. Have you directed your attention to the question at what cost they can be imported?—I dare say that cost might be very much diminished if it were to be undertaken on a larger scale.

5704. To what extent?—Probably to 10*l.*

5705. Do you not think it could be reduced below 10*l.*?—Perhaps it might.

5706. It would of course be necessary to introduce the wives and families of the emigrants?—There ought to be a certain proportion allowed of females.

5707. And any calculation of expense per head would apply to the women and children as well as to the men?—Certainly, in proportion.

5708. When you state those calculations, are you contemplating immigration from the coast of Africa?—Certainly.

5709. Have you ever contemplated immigration from North America?—We have not had experience of that. We had a delegate from the black people in North America, a very intelligent and educated man, who had been at college, a Greek scholar, and he went back as an emissary or as an agent authorised and accredited by the Governor to bring down as many of his countrymen as he could induce to come with him, but he has not returned, and I have not heard whether he has succeeded in bringing any of them.

5710. Up to this time you have had no immigration from North America?—No immigration from North America. We have had from the States, not from Canada; we have had no immigration from Canada, but we have had a few arrivals from the States.

5711. Do you know how many immigrants you have had from the States?—Not precisely; I should say about 200.

5712. What part did they come from?—From Philadelphia and Baltimore.

5713. Under what arrangements were they imported?—They were imported by the agent-general for immigration.

5714. At what cost per head?—I think about 3 *l.* or 4 *l.* sterling; I forget exactly the sum.

5715. Do you know whether those immigrants that came from North America remained in the colony?—Some of them have returned; they were not suited for our purposes; they were not agricultural labourers; they were badly selected; one was a book-binder, another was a painter, and so forth; we had no occasion for such persons; one was a shoemaker, he might have been employed; another

another was an umbrella maker; but we import all those articles, and therefore they could not find employment.

5716. Some of them were agricultural labourers?—None of them that I recollect.

5717. Therefore you had no test?—No test from that quarter of agricultural labourers.

5718. Would you propose that any extensive system of immigration into Jamaica should be carried on under the control and authority of the Government?—Decidedly so. The island of Jamaica is at present in an exhausted state as to its finances.

5719. From what fund would you propose that the very large expense which must attend this extensive immigration should be repaid?—From the general funds of Great Britain, from the Treasury.

5720. Do you think it is impossible to carry on an adequate extent of immigration, by means either of private funds, or the public funds of the island?—Private funds are not to be found at all, and the island treasury at present is exhausted by the very heavy expense for the purpose of carrying out the measures recommended by the Home Government, the building of prisons and penitentiaries; and the ecclesiastical and educational establishments are very extensive; the taxation is enormous; it cannot possibly continue. I believe this year the taxes in Jamaica will be about 25 per cent. of a man's income: I speak advisedly; and it is not from his annual income; many of us have no income at all; it is an imaginary income put by assessors on the property for the purpose of raising this tax, and we are assessed on that valuation put on our properties by these assessors.

5721. Notwithstanding the great advantages which you anticipate from immigration, you think the proprietors would be unable themselves to bear any part of the expense of the immigrants who were to be attached to them?—Quite; they might if it was spread over a number of years, and given in the shape of a loan, but otherwise they have not the means. They have either been expending their own capital for the purpose of keeping up their property, hoping for better times; or they have been receiving monies from the merchants, who, I believe, are now heartily sick of it, and will immediately stop; and I think the cultivation of the whole island must be in a very short time entirely annihilated, unless there is some assistance given.

5722. Have you ever considered whether the difficulty might in part be met by any new laws or regulations between employers and labourers?—I am not aware: I think the laws are sufficient for all our purposes.

5723. Do you consider it necessary or practicable by any new laws to be passed to render labour more continuous when once employment has been commenced?—I do not believe that you can.

5724. Are the laws for the regulation of contracts between labourers and employers adequate?—I believe quite adequate.

5725. Is there no difficulty as to written contracts for labour?—We cannot get our labourers to enter into written contracts, or contracts for any period of time which would secure the planter in the continuous cultivation of his property.

5726. Will they enter into verbal contracts?—Not for any length of time; they have great abhorrence to all engagements.

5727. Do not you think they would enter into verbal contracts, supposing the employers would not employ them on any other terms?—Some of them might; but a great proportion of them who have means of purchasing or hiring land, all of which is within their reach, they would not be dictated to in that way, and are quite independent of the proprietor.

5728. Have you known any complaints in Jamaica of what is called squatting; illegally taking possession of land?—No, I have not; there is no occasion for squatting; money is so abundant for all their purposes that they can always hire land. I would submit to the Committee a statement of the proceeds of land cultivated in provisions at the present and late current prices; that would show that the cultivation of provision land is so very profitable, that the negro in one year can realise three or four times as much as is necessary to purchase an acre of land, and make himself quite independent.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Document:*]

H. Spalding, Esq. M.D.

24 June 1842.

STATEMENT, given in Old Currency.

VALUE of PROVISION GROUNDS in Land supposed to be of good Quality.

An acre of Negro Yams, planted four feet asunder, gives 2,722 hills. To cultivate the same:—

		£. s. d.
To clean and burn off the land - - - - 10 hands		
To dig and plant - - - - - - 42 —		
To clean three times, 10 each time - - - 30 —		
82 at 1/8 - - £.		6 16 8
Market Price: 8/4 per 100 lbs., or 1 *d.* per lb.		
10/ - ditto - 1 ¼ *d.* —		
13/4 - ditto - 1 ½ *d.* —		
15/ - ditto - 1 ¾ *d.* —		
16/8 - ditto - 2 *d.* —		
2,722 yam hills, at 5 lbs. each, at 1 ½ *d.* per lb. - - - - - -		85 1 3
Less, expense and labour - - - - - - - - - -		6 16 8
Cash Product - - - - - - - - £.		78 4 5
2,722 yam hills, at 10 lbs. each, at 1 ½ *d.* per lb. - - - - - -		170 2 6
Less, labour cost - - - - - - - - - - -		6 16 8
Cash Proceeds - - - - - - - - £.		163 5 10

Planted, say 1st February, dug 1st October: eight months.

The white yams give more profit; the negro yams come in earlier. French beans, peas, cabbages, &c. are planted between the rows. The profit of these compensates for the labour of planting or sowing, for carrying to market, fencing, or loss of space, if a rock intervene in a few places.

PLANTAINS.

An acre of Plantains, 12 feet asunder, gives 302 trees. First bearing, 12 months; second and subsequent, eight ditto each.

		£. s. d.
Market Price: 3 plantains for 5 *d.* = 13/9 per 100 plantains, or say 50 plantains in bunch -		- 6 8
4 - ditto - 5 *d.* = 10/5 - - - - - - -		- 5 —
5 - ditto - 5 *d.* = 8/4 - - - - - - -		- 4 2
	3)	- 15 10
Say 4*s.* per bunch, and deducting 6 *d.* for each succeeding crop.	£.	- 5. 3¾
To cost of labour:		
Cleaning off land - - - - - - 10 hands.		
To dig and plant - - - - - - 3 —		
Clean thrice - - - - - - - 30 —		
43 hands, at 1/8, is -		3 11 8

		£. s. d
So, 1st year - - - - - - - - - - - -		3 11 8
2d ditto - - - - - - - - - - - -		2 15 —
3d ditto - - - - - - - - - - - -		2 15 —
4th ditto - - - - - - - - - - - -		2 15 —
5th ditto - - - - - - - - - - - -		2 15 —
	£.	14 11 8
1st bearing, 12 months, 302 bunches, at 4/ - - - - - - - -		60 8 —
2d — 8 ditto - ditto - 3/6 - - - - - - - -		52 17 —
3d — 8 ditto - ditto - 3/ - - - - - - - -		45 6 —
4th — 8 ditto - ditto - 2/6 - - - - - - - -		37 7 6
5th — 8 ditto - ditto - 2/ - - - - - - - -		30 4 —
6th — 8 ditto - ditto - 1/6 - - - - - - - -		22 13 —
Off, cost labour five years - - - - - - - -	£.	248 15 6
		14 11 8
Divide by years - - - - - - - - -	5)	234 3 10
Per Annum - - - - - - - -	£.	46 16 9

Say only two-thirds of 50 in a bunch, we have the average per acre of 31 *l.* 4 *s.* 6 *d.* per annum.

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Cocoas.

One Acre of Cocoas, three feet asunder, gives 4,840 roots. First bearing is in nine months, every other "groping" is in five months:

		£. s. d.
Market Price: 3 for 5 *d.*		
4 – 5 *d.*		
5 – 5 *d.*		
Cost of Production:		
To clean land - - - - - - -	10 hands.	
To dig and plant - - - - - -	5 –	
To clean thrice - - - - - -	30 –	
	45 hands, at 1/8 - -	3 15 –
To second year - - - - - - -	30 - - - -	2 10 –
To third year - - - - - - - -	30 - - - -	2 10 –
	£.	8 15 –
1st crop in 9 months 4,840 roots, at 10 *d.* - - - - - - -		201 3 4
2d ditto 5 - - ditto - - 8 *d.* - - - - - - -		151 6 8
3d ditto 5 - - ditto - - 6 *d.* - - - - - - -		121 – –
4th ditto 5 - - ditto - - 5 *d.* - - - - - - -		100 16 8
5th ditto 5 - - ditto - - 4 *d.* - - - - - - -		80 13 4
6th ditto 5 - - ditto - - 3 *d.* - - - - - - -		60 10 –
	£.	715 10 –
After deducting cost of production - - - - - -		8 15 –
Divide by three years - - - - - - -	3)	706 15 –
Annual Profit - - - - - -	£.	235 11 8

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
If one acre of yams is worth	163 5 10	one-third is - - - - -	54 8 7
— of plantains -	46 16 9	one-third is - - - - -	15 12 3
— of cocoas -	235 11 8	one-third is - - - - -	78 10 6½
		£.	148 11 4½
Suppose you take off even one-third of this product - - -			49 10 5⅓
You have still a proceeds per annum of - - - -		£.	99 – 11

5729. Are there any laws to restrain squatting, if the negroes were inclined to it?—Yes, quite sufficient for that purpose.

5730. Adequate?—Yes.

5731. In one of your last answers you used the words "hiring land;" has there been any system of letting land to negroes by the proprietors?—Abandoned settlements have been let out to them.

5732. In any quantities?—Yes.

5733. How much?—In any quantities they chose.

5734. How much have you known let to any negro?—Four acres.

5735. At what rent?—At eight dollars the year, and some 10, and some 12; according to the value of the land.

5736. Per acre?—Yes.

5737. How can they cultivate such land?—They cultivate it in provisions; in plantains, yams, and cocoas; and they also plant arrow-root and coffee.

5738. Do you think it might have a good effect to carry that system of letting land to negroes to a greater extent?—If you allude to the letting of coffee fields, I think not.

5739. Land under any circumstances?—Of course it would act most injuriously. The selling of land is a step decidedly hostile to the interests of the planter; but I found my labourers were deserting me to buy land elsewhere, and when I asked them the reason, they said they were afraid they would offend me by proposing it. I told them, "No, they might as well buy land from me as another, and I should consider it a compliment."

5740. While letting land to the negro would render him independent, would not the rent yield a profit to the proprietor?—Nothing in comparison to the abstraction of the labour from his field, which would be utter ruin to him.

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5741. Are you acquainted with the system called the Metary system?—No.

5742. Have you ever heard of that system?—No.

5743. Do you think the population, as far as you can judge in your own district, of Jamaica, is increasing in a large ratio, by natural causes?—I do not think it is. I have known a great number of lives lost in consequence of there being no medical assistance within their reach; or, at least, they did not choose to apply for it. In fact, the medical men are almost driven from the island; in the country districts, you cannot find a medical man within 20 or 30 miles. I have endeavoured to persuade my labourers to employ medical men on the same plan as we did before, arguing with them that their former masters of course got their medical attendance on the easiest terms they could, and they would be wise in adopting the same plan, in keeping up the same plan as had been adopted by their former masters.

5744. Do not you find the moral habits of the negroes improved much since emancipation?—Marriage is considered honourable among them, and they decline entering into illicit connexions; in that point of view they have improved very much.

5745. Has not that improvement a strong tendency to increase population?—Certainly.

5746. Still you think population is not increasing?—I am not aware; the want of a census is a desideratum which I hope will be soon supplied.

5747. You have never adopted the custom in Jamaica of giving gratuitous medical attendance as part of their earnings?—In some districts they have.

5748. You have not?—No, I have not.

5749. When you stated that 25,000 was the number of emigrants that you thought necessary, do you mean 25,000 available labourers, exclusive of the families they bring with them?—Of available labourers.

5750. Viscount *Howick*.] Therefore, reckoning the families, there would be a much larger number?—Yes.

5751. You stated, that you conceived a large immigration of this kind, the only possible remedy for the difficulty you now experience in Jamaica?—Yes.

5752. And that immigration will have the effect of not only increasing the supply, but of making the negroes that are now in the island work more continuously?—I think so.

5753. But that this would not apply to those who have already settled on land?—No.

5754. Do you not conceive that the same process of settling on land would still continue even after immigration?—It might; but then the immigration must be continued if you wish to keep up your colonies. If the colonies are of no consequence to the mother country, they may be allowed, and must perish, but if they are important, the only means of keeping them up is by increasing the population.

5755. You have stated, that about three-fourths of the island of Jamaica is still uncultivated?—A very large proportion indeed; a great part of that is not fit for cultivation, it could not be turned to profitable cultivation,

5756. But there is a very large part of what is still uncultivated, capable of being applied to those articles of produce which the negroes usually raise?—Certainly, but if it is carried to a great extent, the market would be overstocked; that must have its limit with respect to provisions.

5757. If you increase the population, the demand for provisions would also increase?—No, it would not, because if they were agricultural labourers, each would raise sufficient for his own family, and the agricultural labourers are not consumers; the extra provisions raised go into the towns.

5758. Is it not to be apprehended, that unless some measures are taken to check such a tendency, as fast as the immigrants arrive they will, like the present labourers, have a tendency to establish themselves on the land, and to be withdrawn from the labour market?—I have no doubt that will be the ultimate result of it; the immigration must then be continued.

5759. Do you not conceive that some means might be adopted to check that tendency of the labourers to withdraw, and to establish themselves on land of their own?—I am not aware of any; nor do I think it can in justice be attempted; because if a man has his money, he has a right to apply it to any purpose he pleases, and may purchase land, plenty of which is in the market.

5760. Do

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5760. Do you conceive there would be any injustice in taking measures that would render land more expensive, and make a greater amount of labour necessary before the labourer could establish himself on the land?—I do not well see how that can be done by proprietors of land. The greater part of the land in Jamaica, the whole island, is in the hands of individuals, and is not in the state of Crown lands.

5761. That could not be done by proprietors of land, because while the supply is so much greater than the demand, of course no combination among the proprietors could permanently raise the price?—Yes.

5762. Do you think there is any reason why public measures should not be adopted by the government and legislature of the colony with a view to producing that result?—I think it would be injustice to attempt to legislate for circumstances in that way, contrary to the general rules of society and the rights which every man, every free denizen, possesses.

5763. Do you not conceive that it is greatly to the advantage of the negro population, as well as all other classes in the island, that a state of civilised society should be maintained, which can only be maintained by a system of combined labour?—I am not aware that it would be necessary to take such a step for the purpose of continuing or increasing civilisation.

5764. You have already stated that unless something effectual can be done to ensure a better supply of labour, the cultivation of, and the export of produce from the island must cease?—Yes.

5765. Will not a decrease in that cultivation be followed by the departure of the white inhabitants?—Yes.

5766. Is not that a result greatly to be deprecated, as well for the negroes as the white inhabitants?—Yes, no question of it; besides the great loss which will be imposed on individuals who have vested their capital there.

5767. Do you see any reason why the Legislature should not adopt measures calculated to prevent that result from following?—I have already stated that I am not aware what measures could be adopted for that purpose with justice to the free inhabitants of Jamaica.

5768. You admit that the object is a legitimate one, provided the laws proposed for that purpose are such as do not infringe upon the just rights of the labourer?—Decidedly.

5769. You have stated that the finances of Jamaica are now in a very embarrassed condition?—The expenditure of the colony is so great, and the productive industry so deficient, that unless some renovation takes place, it will be impossible to meet it. The taxation, at this moment, is very high.

5770. At the same time you have stated that the reward of labour is so great that the negro, by labouring for comparatively a very short space of time in the week, can more than satisfy all his wants?—Yes; but all the taxation falls upon the proprietor, or at least the greater part of it, except the indirect taxation.

5771. Do you not think, from those circumstances, the natural inference is, that the nature of the taxation ought to be so altered as to make it fall more on the labourer and less on the proprietor?—Yes.

5772. Might not that be accomplished by placing taxation more directly upon the cultivation of land, and more particularly the provision-grounds?—It might, but it would appear a very invidious thing to tax a piece of land cultivated in provisions, on a different principle from land cultivated with any other kind of produce.

5773. Should you see any objection to raising the whole revenue required in Jamaica for parochial and public purposes by means of a land-tax, provided that land-tax could be prevented falling on the exportable produce?—No, I see no objection to that. It would be well if the great body of inhabitants could be made to bear more equally the taxation which falls now entirely on the planters.

5774. If the revenue now raised be what you have described as a very burthensome tax upon assumed income, were levied by direct taxation on the land, would not the tendency of that measure be to give the negro an inducement to greater labour, and at the same time greatly relieve the proprietors?—No doubt if it would, and I dare say that presently, when even the taxes that now bear upon them come to be more fully understood, and more rigidly and

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generally exacted, that they will be less disposed to embark their capital in land than they have been.

5775. Then you see no objection to the principle of such a tax on land?—I do not; but if it bear again in the same proportion heavily on the planter, he can bear no increased taxation. There is the difficulty, in separating them.

5776. But might not the planter be relieved by granting a drawback on the actual export of sugar and coffee, and the other produce of the island, which would be equivalent to what he paid as land tax?—I do not understand how the drawback is to be paid; whence it is to come from.

5777. If you increase the revenue of the island by a modification of the existing taxes, laying the whole taxation on the land, might you not then prevent that pressing unduly on the proprietor, by allowing a certain drawback on every hogshead of sugar, and every cwt. of coffee exported?—If the means could be found from the general taxation of the country it would be well.

5778. By this Return which you have handed in, you calculate that the value of each acre of land cultivated at present, after paying for all labour, is very large indeed?—About 99 *l.* currency; 50 *l.* sterling.

5779. If land is capable of yielding so large a net income as that, is there any reason why a considerable land tax should not be imposed, giving a drawback in the manner before described on the exportation of the staple produce of the island?—I think it is feasible, and benefit might result from it.

5780. Would not a measure of that kind have a strong tendency to make the occupation of land by negroes somewhat more difficult, and at the same time assist the proprietor in carrying on the cultivation of his estate?—I think it would.

5781. And, therefore, that its tendency would be advantageous to both classes?—It would be certainly advantageous to the planter; I do not see how it would be very advantageous to the labourer.

5782. You stated, that for the permanent and real interests of the labourer, the present state of society should be maintained, and with that view, would it not also be for the interest of the labourer?—In that point of view it would.

5783. Would there have been any difficulty in adopting a system of this kind, if it had been established immediately on the abolition of slavery?—It would have been much more easily accomplished then than now.

5784. The difficulties would be greater now?—Greater now.

5785. You do not consider those difficulties as insurmountable?—If such a measure were considered to be advantageous and absolutely necessary, and decided on by the Government, I do not know anything that cannot and ought not to be carried out by the Government. When our apprenticeship was abolished, the reason given for the abolition was (our Governor, Sir Lionel Smith, stated it), "that it was physically impossible to carry on the present system of coercive labour;" but I must say that I think it an extraordinary statement to come from any person, from any Governor, and especially from a soldier, to say that the laws of the country cannot be enforced.

5786. You have stated that the large emigration to which you look as the only means of meeting the difficulties of Jamaica, can only be accomplished supposing this country to pay the expense?—Undoubtedly.

5787. But supposing this country will not take that burthen upon itself, that it considers the money already advanced is quite sufficient, will there be any other resource than the adoption of such measures as I have described?—I am not aware of any, but if something is not done, it is quite impossible your colonies can exist; I am confident that Jamaica must, in the course of a very few years (I would not extend it beyond three), cease to be an exporting colony or a productive colony; and that the greatest injustice will be done to its proprietors, who have been induced, under the existence of the former laws of the colony, to invest their capitals in that country. For example, myself; all I inherited, and all I made, I invested in that country; and I will, just to illustrate the thing, shortly state, that there is this property, the Grove, of which I have spoken, and of which I now show you the title-deed, for which I paid 22,772 *l.* On the labourers one-half of that sum was valued; and the other was supposed to be the value of the freehold and works. I have got, in compensation, from this country (I am speaking of currency), 3,000 *l.*, or thereabouts, for this 11,000 *l.* which was rated to me on the labourers. But if I cannot continue to cultivate this, if I am obliged to desert my property, I have then got

3,000 *l.*

3,000 *l.* for my 22,772 *l.* It is upon that ground I say the West Indians have an especial claim to have something more than the 20,000,000 *l.* that was given them, all of my share of which I have expended during the two years of apprenticeship on some plantations.

5788. You have stated that you do not believe, without some change for the better, the present system of cultivation can be carried on for more than three years?—I do not think so; there are many estates that might continue to cultivate; but if the great majority of estates are thrown out of cultivation, then the taxation of the country will fall altogether to be borne by these, and it is quite impossible they can go on.

5789. Do you consider that the cessation of cultivation will be followed by the departure from the island of the greater part of the white inhabitants?—No doubt.

5790. Both planters and inhabitants?—There would be no inducement to remain.

5791. Do you conceive that the coloured population are in such a state of advancement, that if left by the whites they could maintain themselves as a civilised body of people?—I do not think so at present; but I have no doubt of their capability of being instructed sufficiently to conduct the government of their country.

5792. You think the immediate effect would be their falling back into a lower and ruder state of society?—I should be afraid of that.

5793. You have stated that already a great many medical men have left the island?—They have been driven from it; starved out.

5794. They have no means of subsistence?—No, none at all.

5795. Is not that a proof that unless something is done to maintain a civilised state of society, the island will relapse very greatly?—Most unquestionably.

5796. Are the negroes who have purchased land beginning to take any part in the political affairs of the island?—Not as yet to any great extent, but in the towns they have; and I have no doubt that within a very short space of time, they will have the entire control of the elections, and can return black members; we have one member already of the Assembly, who is nearly a black man, and we have several coloured persons, respectable men; I have little doubt that if they choose, they may return an assembly altogether of blacks.

5797. Do you think that the negroes are at present in such a state of education and intelligence, that when such large powers are placed in their hands, they may not be misled greatly to abuse them?—I have no doubt they will be altogether under the influence of their ministers; and a few leading men amongst themselves, the most instructed.

5798. Do you not think in this case, these persons would make an injudicious use of the powers which will thus be placed in their hands?—It is very likely they would; it is extremely probable they would.

5799. Do you not consider that the present is an opportunity which should be improved with as little delay as possible to the making any necessary reforms either in the law or the constitution of Jamaica?—I think it would be highly conducive to the interests of the island, as a productive colony, that such changes should be made; but such has been the prejudice with respect to Jamaica, that everything that has been attempted in that way as to raising the qualification of the elective franchise, that we despair, and I suppose would never attempt, without the concurrence of or previous intimation of the Government, to alter that qualification.

5800. Without attempting any alteration of the qualification, might not many laws be passed improving the present system of Jamaica?—I am not aware of any; the laws are quite adequate for the government of the colony, I conceive.

5801. Is it not the case in Jamaica, at the present time, that many of the powers which in this country are exercised by the Executive Government are, in Jamaica, exercised by committees of the House of Assembly?—I am not aware of what you allude to.

5802. You have stated, in describing one of the properties, West Prospect, that it has now been abandoned for some time?—Only since the beginning of this year; it has been quite unproductive.

5803. And the trees are no longer clean?—The trees have not been cleaned for nine months, and are now nearly irreclaimable.

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5804. Then the value of that property is at an end?—Is gone. I consider that I have lost 10,000 *l.* sterling by that.

5805. What did you consider it worth in 1838?—£. 10,000 *l.* sterling.

5806. Is a sugar estate equally rapidly deteriorated by a cessation of cultivation?—Any neglect of a sugar estate throws it back two or three years; but any deterioration of coffee land cannot be recovered; it cannot be again planted with coffee, even after it has remained fallow for 20 years.

5807. It cannot be again planted with coffee, even after so long an interval?—No.

5808. The trees will not flourish?—If coffee has been cultivated in it previously. The coffee land is generally very steep land; and whether it is that the hoeing causes all the surface soil to be washed away by the heavy rains that we have in that country, I do not know, but so it is; and of this very plantation, West Prospect, I planted about 30 acres with coffee, on land that had been previously in cultivation, but had not been exhausted (for it was deserted when coffee was at a very low price, under the operation of the Berlin and Milan Decrees); when I again planted it, 20 or 21 years afterwards, the trees came to about the height of the table, and then died off.

5809. Do the negroes ever cultivate coffee on the land they purchase for themselves?—They do now.

5810. They are more likely to cultivate coffee than sugar?—Yes; sugar requires a great deal of expense in manuring it, therefore I do not see how any plantation could be let out to the negroes for the cultivation of sugar; it requires a heavy capital to be laid out for the manure of a sugar field.

5811. Is the cultivation of sugar likely to be carried on by the negroes, even if the white inhabitants are unable to pursue it?—No; but they do cultivate a few canes in their gardens now.

5812. You have stated that on one of your estates where the negroes showed good feeling by saving your coffee crop, you sent your mules to bring up provisions from a market 25 miles off?—Yes.

5813. Where was that?—From Kingston.

5814. What sort of communication is there between your estate and Kingston?—Very bad indeed; it is a mountain road.

5815. Is your produce sent down on mules' backs?—Yes; and we pay the men who conduct the mules 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, and they will not take more than two mules, and each mule carries 160 lbs. weight of coffee; so that it becomes an expensive thing, sending down the crops.

5816. So that the conveyance of your crops and the conveyance of your supplies is a very heavy item in the cultivation of an estate?—No; the chief item is the cleaning of the field.

5817. It is a large deduction from what you receive from your crop, the amount of expense incurred in carriage?—No, I should say not, although it is unnecessarily so. I was lately in Cuba; there (as we used to do) will be two men with 16 or 20 mules; but our negroes now will not take charge of more than two mules each man; so that we are obliged to send 10 men with 20 mules.

5818. Do you think these roads could not be improved?—I have no doubt they could, but they could not be made carriage-roads; our mountains rise to a height of 2,000 or 3,000 feet, where coffee is cultivated.

5819. And they could not, except at a very large expense, be made practicable for carts?—Not in that district.

5820. Are the roads generally bad in Jamaica?—They are becoming bad, because formerly they were kept up by statute labour; but now these means do not exist, and the black population, who use the roads for the transport of their provisions to market every week of the year, pay nothing towards the roads, except in two places where there are tolls erected.

5821. Do you not consider that roads are one of the most important means of maintaining civilisation in a country?—No doubt they are; I was chairman of a committee last session of the House, to arrange a code of road legislation which I offered to them, but they thought the expense was so great and the measures so elaborate, such as the appointing certain engineers to report on the roads, and to state in what way they could be improved, either shortened or made more easy, that they did not go into the scheme, and they have continued

tinued the usual grants for the roads which are made by the House of Assembly out of the public treasury.

5822. Considering how well off the negroes are, and that they make so much use of the roads, would it not be very proper that they should be made, by means of a rate on the property they occupy, to contribute to the improvement of the roads?—That was part of the scheme I proposed, that there should be a capitation tax, for the purpose of defraying the expenses; in the first place, the surveying the roads, and afterwards keeping them in order; and further, that tolls should be imposed.

5823. How are the roads now managed in Jamaica?—They are managed by the way-wardens and vestries.

5824. The way-wardens are appointed by the vestries?—Yes; in one or two parishes they have lately appointed inspectors of roads, and the money was laid out under those inspectors.

5825. Do you think that system sufficient?—It is very faulty indeed; I think that it ought to be taken altogether out of the hands of the vestries, which are chiefly composed of parties who are not mainly interested in the keeping up of good roads, and that it would be better to place them in the hands of the quarter sessions and the magistracy of each parish or county.

5826. The vestry is a representative body?—It is.

5827. Representing the parish?—Elected by the freeholders.

5828. Do you not conceive that a very proper body for managing an expenditure of this kind?—I do not; because there is a kind of ambition to be in the vestry; it is one of the privileges that they all aspire to now, whether they are qualified or not, and the great body of the vestry pay nothing towards the taxes, so that they are dealing with the money of the proprietors.

5829. Is not the fault rather in the mode of assessing the rate than in the constitution of the vestry?—I am not finding fault with vestries for their own proper purposes to which they ought to be limited, as in this country, to the interests of the church and poor, but they should not be allowed to deal with other matters, and tax the proprietors to a great extent, for various purposes, particularly for the roads; I object to their competency for that.

5830. Do you not think it very desirable, that purposes of this kind should be provided for by the management of a body of this kind, elected by those who pay the tax?—Decidedly; and therefore I think it ought to be left to the magistrates in quarter sessions assembled.

5831. They are appointed by the Crown, and not elected by those who pay the rates?—The electors of the vestry pay very little rates; the qualification is at so low a rate that every man who has a piece of land, and can swear his house worth 10*l.* to him, is entitled to elect a vestryman.

5832. Would it not be better that the fund should be so raised as to be contributed to by all who pay to the rate, and the administration left with the ratepayers, than that the administration should be placed in the hands of a body of persons selected by the Crown and not by a system of election?—The magistrates are appointed by the Crown, but they are generally proprietors, and the most respectable and intelligent body of the island; and inasmuch as they are the ratepayers, I think it would be well to leave the management of the roads in their hands.

5833. Each parish provides for its own poor in Jamaica?—There has been no poor-rate; some of the parishes do give assistance to the poor, but in general the poor are provided for by their relations on the estates; they show a very good feeling in that respect in general.

5834. When there are persons who have no relations, or who are sick and entirely destitute, the vestry provides for them?—They do.

5835. And that from the taxes levied in the parish?—Yes.

5836. The money levied for parochial purposes is raised by taxes imposed by the vestry, is it not?—It is.

5837. It is not by a rate, as in this country, but by taxes?—The public taxes for the general purposes of the island are all collected by the collecting constable, and the rates for parochial purposes are fixed by the vestry, and they are also collected at the same time by the collecting constable, but they are distinctly stated in the tax account; and the monies that are so collected by the collecting constable for general purposes are paid into the island treasury, but the parochial

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funds are reserved in the hands of the collecting constable, to be applied as directed by orders of the vestry.

5838. The money raised for parochial purposes is not by a simple rate on property, but it is several different kinds of taxes?—Yes, various: a tax on stock, a tax on wheels and horses, and very lately a tax on dogs and sheep.

5839. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] In what year did you make the purchase of that estate which you called the Grove, of which you have given the details to the Committee?—In 1822.

5840. Could you state from recollection, or any circumstances that would guide you to a result, what would have been the value of that estate in 1831?—All our property varies very much in its returns, even in former times; it depends so much on the seasons; one year I should have perhaps 120 tierces of coffee from this plantation, another year I should only have 40; I cannot give you a distinct answer as to that in any given year at this moment.

5841. You have stated that if you now desert that estate, you consider you would have been a loser of the whole purchase-money, excepting the 3,000 *l.* you received in compensation for your slaves; what did you consider the value of your estate previous to the emancipation of those slaves?—Immediately after I purchased this property Mr. Buxton brought in his resolutions, which threw a doubt over the stability of West India property, and from that date the value of slaves declined. A short time after that they were utterly unsaleable. In the course of two or three years they were again saleable at the rate of 50 *l.* per caput, and latterly, when the prospects of the country changed, the value was reduced to 30 *l.* per head; but if these steps had not been taken, I could at any time have commanded my 22,772 *l.* from that property, beyond all doubt.

5842. As the steps were taken, the value of your estate was gradually declining from 1822 to 1832, the period of emancipation?—The value of the negro property, but it was of very little consequence to the planter, of no consequence in the world, what you estimated the value of his property by; the true estimate was the returns, and my returns continued to be as good for many, many years after the introduction of Buxton's motion, and up to the date of freedom.

5843. As to the possibility of the disposal of that property?—It became almost impossible to dispose of it.

5844. You stated that the only means of recovering Jamaica, and properties in Jamaica, would be by a large immigration at the expense of the mother country; do you conceive that if the mother country was to go to that expense, and to enable you to import 25,000 immigrants, which is the number you stated, would that be sufficient for the recultivation of the land, and that then you would be able to compete in your produce with foreign countries?—I have not the least doubt of that; nay, it would drive them out of the market. If slavery is to be extinguished, that is the only way in which it can be accomplished; the extinction of slavery as a partial measure is a phantom.

5845. Is it your opinion that with such an importation as that you could enter into competition in the market with the soils of Cuba?—I have no doubt of it; our soils are excellent. Then there are the other colonies, the new settlements of Guiana and Trinidad, which are almost inexhaustible.

5846. Have you considered any scheme by which such a large immigration as that could be conducted by Government?—I do not know whether Great Britain would have the courage to undertake it, that is, the liberation of those Africans who are held in slavery now, and are sold to slave-trading countries; if we purchased those and made them free denizens in our own colonies, giving them all the free institutions which our colonies have, with the advantages of a congenial climate, and those advancements in civilisation and instruction, in religion and morality which they would receive, I conceive it would be conferring an everlasting benefit on them; and not only that, but they would return to their native land; so that from the ancient abodes of slavery the lights of religion and civilisation would be thrown back on their native country, which is now in a state of heathenism.

5847. Are you aware of any unwillingness on the part of the inhabitants of the Western Coast of Africa to dwell in Jamaica?—I am not aware of it; our agent, Mr. Barclay, went to Sierra Leone, and he brought back with him a number of Africans; he brought some of their head men, and I took one of

those

those men up with me to the Hermitage, and showed him all that was going on there, the mode in which the people were paid; and he told me when he returned to Sierra Leone he would bring a hundred people, and I said, "Well, do so;" unfortunately the ship was wrecked, and his mission was retarded; he came back to Jamaica, and he and a number of others were sent back to assure the people of Sierra Leone of the condition of the country. He afterwards returned to Jamaica, and told me he had brought 19 for me; but the vessel had gone into Port Morant, where the people had all got employment, but he was going back again, and would return with others.

5848. Are you aware of any misrepresentations that were made to the people of Sierra Leone as to their prospects in the West Indies?—I am not aware, but there were representations made by parties in Sierra Leone, who were afraid that their colony would become depopulated, and the very persons who were sent as confidential agents were doubted as to the condition of their black brethren in Jamaica. They then sent fresh agents, and I have very little doubt when they return they will confirm what had been stated by the previous emissaries, and that a considerable supply might be got even from Sierra Leone.

5849. Have you visited Cuba yourself?—I have.

5850. What should you say was the respective nature of the soil of Cuba and the soil of Jamaica?—I think they are very much alike. Cuba is a very extensive island; I forget how much, four or five times, larger than Jamaica.

5851. Is the soil equal or superior in fertility?—From what I saw it was much the same; the mountain land is much the same description of soil we have in Jamaica, and the flats are diluvial soil and adapted for the cultivation of the cane.

5852. Are they subject to the same varieties of weather in Cuba?—Quite the same; their climate is rather cooler.

5853. Do you know what is the price of sugar in Cuba now?—I think it was at 22 *s.*, varying from that to 28 *s.* I am not certain as to that point.

5854. In Cuba?—Yes, but the rates at which they are cultivating there they complain are not at all remunerating. One gentleman told me he had intended to purchase a sugar plantation, but he was glad he had not done so.

5855. What is the difference between the rate at which they can produce sugar in Cuba and Jamaica?—I cannot answer the question. I have no doubt if we had free labour in abundance that we could beat the slave-labour cultivation of any country; but that must be had; and that was the great fallacy which has led to our present unhappy predicament, that in doing justice to the great body of the labourers who were slaves, the proprietary body have been altogether lost sight of, and we were left in a perfectly helpless state, and therefore free labour has not had a fair trial under emancipation as conducted and arranged for in our colonies.

5855*. Is the number of immigrants you have stated to be necessary for the cultivation of Jamaica founded on any accurate calculation, or is it in mere round numbers?—It is merely an idea of the defalcation, and in order to supply the labour market.

5856. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] With reference to that estate, the deed of purchase of which you have produced, dated in 1822, by which you said you should be a total loser, except the compensation money, do you suppose much of that money has been repaid to you in the shape of large profits during the years 1832 and 1833?—No, I do not think it has.

5857. It would be a total loss?—Not a total loss. I have had considerable profit; I am entitled to any profit I have made by my speculation. If I had not been interfered with; if the constitution of the country, under the laws of which I had invested my money, had not been interfered with, I should have had my money returned to me at any time.

5858. It would then have been a profitable speculation, and now it has not been?—It would have made me a good return. My capital would have been recoverable; whereas, if I cannot cultivate, my capital is entirely sunk.

5859. As it is, it has not made you an adequate return?—Now I am losing money by it every year.

5860. Taking the whole period since you bought it, it has not made you an adequate return?—It has made me a fair return for the capital invested, but not returned me my capital.

5861. You said that the labourers on your estate worked six days a week, from a reciprocal kindly feeling which you were able to promote between them

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and yourself; do not you think it would have been advantageous if the other proprietors were able to effect the same reciprocal kindly feeling with their labourers?—No doubt; and I do not mean to say that others have not done so, and have benefited by it.

5862. You stated that you did not know of any other instance?—I do not of my own knowledge.

5863. You are not aware that there were not such instances?—No.

5864. Now with respect to coffee estates, do they require more than three or four days' labour, except in crop time?—That depends on the number of hands you have on them, and the extent of your field. If a person had a good freehold, he would expect and desire to have the labour of the persons settled on his property six days in the week.

5865. But coffee estates, do they require as much continuous labour as sugar estates?—Quite so; I should say even more.

5866. Is the abandonment of an estate the cause of any regret to the negroes?—No.

5867. Not at all?—No.

5868. You stated that continuous labour was very difficult to obtain, and the labour was very irregular; was there no means of getting a sufficient quantity of labour?—No means; I tried every means; I tried even with immigrants; I went to great expense in endeavouring to settle those Africans; I had sometimes 30 of them lame and sick; and the Irish immigrants, whom I also employed and went to a great expense with them, their contract was annulled by the local magistrates, because the contract did not stipulate for maintenance independently and irrespectively of labour in return.

5869. The question is asked because of a paragraph in Mr. Stipendiary Grant's Report of Manchester, in which he says, "I think no alarm need spread about the insufficiency of labour to carry on the cultivation, if sufficient capital can be found to encourage the labourers in their present peaceable and obedient course, and to protect them from the ills and corruption which an absence of honest encouragement might entail"?—He is a man with particular views; I can only say, as to that, the parish of which Mr. Grant is the stipendiary magistrate, I represent that parish in the Assembly. I have gone over that parish within the last six months. Coffee in that parish generally lasts about 16 years at all events, if not renewed; inasmuch as there will be four years gone since freedom came, deducting four from 16, there would be one-fourth of the field under most careful cultivation exhausted and annihilated; but I believe even so much as two-thirds of the coffee fields in that parish are now gone out of cultivation from the want of continuous labour and due care. It is not a mere opinion this, for the returns of the shipments at the chief port of export for that parish, Alligator Pond, will completely bear out the statement I have made.

5870. And the late short crops are to be solely attributed to the want of continuous labour, or the unprecedented dry weather?—No doubt that was greatly the cause of it. I know in one parish, in Vere, there were six estates which did not put the mill about, on which estates the sums of 9,000, 12,000, and 15,000 dollars had been expended that year, from which there was no return.

5871. Mr. Grant also says, "That a prompt supply of money will undoubtedly secure every berry"?—I am not aware that there was a want of money; there has not been a want of capital; the money has been supplied.

5872. Does the truck system at all prevail in those parts?—Not at all.

5873. After emancipation took place, were the labourers paid promptly in money payments?—Yes; on most properties they were.

5874. On yours, were they?—Always; I never wished them to pass more than two weeks without being paid.

5875. Exclusive of other allowances?—They were paid in silver, purchased at a premium of from three to five per cent. for the purpose of paying them.

5876. The magistrates, you said, were appointed by the Governor, at the recommendation of the custos; does that recommendation proceed solely from the custos?—Solely.

5877. Do not the planters or the negroes influence that recommendation?—No.

5878. Have

5878. Have you any Irish immigrants on your estates?—I had nearly 100 of them.

5879. How did you find them answer?—They would have done very well if I had been supported in the management of them, and in exacting that for which they had agreed; but they were not people adapted for the purpose. Some of them had been kitchen gardeners in the neighbourhood of London, and they complained to me, on coming up, they could not work in the field here hoeing these steep hills; and they had been accustomed to have their mutton and beef daily, and they led others to go down and complain to the magistrates, or rather I complained of them; but my overseer allowed the magistrates to hear the alleged complaints of the immigrants, all of which were rebutted, and ultimately the contract was annulled, on the ground of there being no provision for maintenance irrespective of labour, which the magistrates said there ought to have been, according to the Immigration Act. I can read nothing of the kind in the Immigration Act. All I can suppose was expected was, that they were to have plenty of work, and they were to have money for their labour, and provisions within their reach for the money which they obtained.

5880. What were the terms on which you hired them?—They were to have the same payments as the people on the plantation, all of which were specifically enumerated for the sake of accuracy; but it could not be called a written contract, inasmuch as they were not made parties to it by their signatures.

5881. How many had you?—I had 93.

5882. How long did they remain?—Some remained from March till September. It was another party, who came by the ship Hopewell, who were complainants. Two-thirds were grieved when I told them they must go away.

5883. What was the mortality in that number?—There were only three. I am confident that European labourers may cultivate our coffee in the mountains with perfect safety to their health, and with great advantage to their comforts, compared with their condition in their own country.

5884. That being your opinion, do you think that emigration must necessarily be confined to Africa?—No; certainly not.

5885. You think then that whites, either from Africa or Ireland or England, would be useful?—Could be usefully employed in the cultivation of coffee in the mountain districts. I only lost two of them from fever. They both of them caught the fever in the lowlands; one was a woman with a bad leg, who had been in every hospital in London, and mortification came on and she died.

5886. Did you find the negroes were jealous either of the Africans or of the whites?—I think they were very jealous of the whites.

5887. Not of the Africans?—No.

5888. Viscount *Chelsea.*] You were understood to state that you devoted the whole amount of the compensation money awarded to you at the time of the emancipation to the cultivation of your estate?—I cannot state precisely the sum expended, but I am confident, taking the island in general, that the compensation money obtained for the individual labourers was expended, or nearly so; in the two years of apprenticeship it was quite.

5889. With respect to your own estate, you were understood to state that the whole of the money you received in compensation was devoted to the cultivation and improvement of it?—I did not keep a distinct account for that purpose, but the cultivation of this Hermitage has cost me 1,800 *l.* sterling per annum, and my compensation for that property was about 3,500 *l.* There were 157 negroes on it.

5890. In fact, on the whole you have applied the greatest portion of the amount you received in compensation to the improvement and cultivation of your estates?—Much more.

5891. Is it or is it not the case, that a great portion of the estates in Jamaica at the time of emancipation were mortgaged, and some very heavily?—Yes, I believe so.

5892. And in many cases the compensation money, instead of being employed in the improvement or cultivation of the estates, was awarded to the mortgagees?—Yes, they got possession of the money; that was the great object they had in view.

5893. Do you not think that to a certain extent, the intention of the Government of this country in awarding the compensation money was frustrated by the

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the appropriation of it to those purposes?—Certainly not; because the estates were indebted to the merchants, and the merchants had a right to be paid their debt.

5894. Do you not think that the money was awarded by this country for the purpose of providing a substitute for the labour which it was expected that emancipation would withdraw from their estates?—No; I do not conceive that was the object. If it was, it is a most extraordinary view of it. For example, a poor coloured woman in the town, who had four or five, or six negroes, who were hired out, and brought a certain sum in, on which she could subsist; they were taken from her, and she received in return, about one year's hiring.

5895. Do you consider that any great want of capital is felt throughout the island?—No doubt of it.

5896. That there exists a deficiency of capital throughout the island?—There is no capital in the island now, nor any credit. The credit is almost exhausted.

5897. Do you not think, independent of the supply of labour, that capital is an indispensable requisite to insure successful cultivation?—Yes; I have no doubt that capital has been supplied by the parties having surplus funds applicable to such purposes, or from the merchant.

5898. Supposing an extensive system of immigration was carried into effect, and the expense borne by the Government of the home country, do you not think that the deficiency of capital which at present exists would be an insuperable obstacle to the successful cultivation in the long run of sugar estates?—No; because if such a saving measure were put before the planter, if he has money, independent funds, he would continue to apply that to carry on the cultivation of his property rather than allow his whole capital invested in land and buildings to be annihilated; and on the other hand where he has no such capital, the merchants, for the sake of reaping the advantage of the consignments, will continue to advance the funds as they have been doing, and from which they are most of them about to withdraw.

5899. You were understood to state, that on your estate, rent was only charged to the man and woman, to the labourer and his wife?—Yes, generally to every person at work.

5900. Is it not the fact in many cases, that rent is charged on each member of the family?—No.

5901. Mr. *Barclay*.] You stated, you had been lately in the island of Cuba?—Yes.

5902. When was that?—In February, or the beginning of March.

5903. You expressed an opinion, provided you had abundance of labour, that you could compete with the slave labour at Cuba?—Yes; I conceive we could with any slave-cultivating country, provided labour was abundant; provided the labour market is so well supplied that the labourer should be beholden to the employer, and not the employer entirely at the mercy of the labourer.

5904. Under those circumstances, you would not require the protection of differential duties?—Ultimately we should be independent of them, and Great Britain would escape altogether from that tax which is at present imposed on her.

5905. Do you recollect the price of sugar at Cuba?—I think it was from 22 *s.* up to 28 *s.*; I am not a sugar merchant.

5906. Perhaps you will consider what the prices were?—I would not speak positively.

5907. From a letter, dated Kingston, in May last, the price at Jamaica would appear to be from 22*s.* to 28*s.* per cwt.?—I am confounding Jamaica with Cuba.

5908. In this statement of yours, of the value of provision grounds, in lands supposed to be of good quality, it appears that three acres planted with yams, plantains, and cocoa, produce a net revenue of 99 *l.* 11 *s.*?—Currency.

5909. That is about 60 *l.* sterling?—About 60 *l.* sterling.

5910. That is the net revenue arising from the cultivation of three acres of land?—From each acre of land. I must mention that that calculation was not made by myself; it was made by an experienced planter in St. James, on whose accuracy I have perfect reliance.

5911. Have

5911. Have not the proprietors of land in Jamaica considered that it would be advantageous for them to cultivate those vegetable productions instead of sugar and coffee?—Of course that would very soon supply the market, and work its own cure. But perhaps it might be a means of procuring more continuous labour, to appropriate a part of the labour of the estate to the raising of provisions and selling them in the market; but on the other hand, I doubt very much if that were attempted, whether the labourers would not refuse to do it, for they are perfectly intelligent, and they would see it would be cutting their own throats, if they were to consent to cultivate provisions.

5912. If you cultivated those vegetable productions, would you not, by reducing the price, force the negroes to work more on your property?—If a negro would consent to employ himself in that way, but he is entirely the ruler on that point; he can refuse to do any work he pleases, or he can employ himself in any way he pleases.

5913. Do you think it would not be practicable for a proprietor to grow these vegetable productions, and increase the supply in the markets of Jamaica?—I do not think it would, for that reason.

5914. Have you introduced machinery of late in Jamaica, ploughs and harrows?—Not on the coffee plantations, there has been no change made; nor am I aware we could, because our cultivation is on very steep land; perhaps our coffee lands rise in an angle of 45 to 60 degrees, and are very steep indeed.

5915. You cannot introduce the horse hoe?—Not on that land; no horse could have his footing on it; indeed it is difficult for a biped to find a footing.

5916. Then yours are all coffee plantations?—Altogether, except one sugar estate I am concerned in.

5917. Sir *Charles Douglas*.] Are many of the estates mortgaged now?—Yes; the money got for the compensation was not sufficient to clear off the mortgages.

5918. Then with your views of this country paying a large sum of money towards immigration, the fact of the estates being now heavily mortgaged would render the power of their repaying this country at an earlier period very improbable?—I do not know that; money might be advanced under a stipulation to that effect.

5919. Mr. *Godson*.] Suppose the Government to send a sloop-of-war and the same transports which take troops from one part of the world to another, and bring negroes to Jamaica, could not the Assembly repay the Government of this country annually those expenses?—I do not think they can; the expenditure of the island so greatly already exceeds the revenue, that I do not think they can undertake it.

5920. Would it not be worth the while of the planters to repay that, on whose estates the negroes would be put?—If it were spread out over a number of years, I have stated that perhaps it would; but there is one thing I must state, that a servitude of one year will never suit; no planter will undertake to climatise and settle any immigrants, African or European, on a mere engagement for a servitude of one year; I should say three years is the least.

5921. Mr. *Barclay*.] Then on an average of three years it would be worth while to do that?—Decidedly.

5922. You stated, if you had labour you could then compete with Cuba?—Yes.

5923. In what manner could you apply that labour, if the Government were to bring negroes from Africa and elsewhere?—The Government must do that; if the Government wish to preserve their colonies, they must take it up as a great measure, and as a necessary measure, and as the only measure that can put down the slave trade, by importing numbers to cultivate her colonies.

5924. In three years you say that might be returned?—No, not in three years.

5925. How can that be worth doing which does not produce the desired effect?—When I say it would require an apprenticeship of three years, I do not mean to speak of the profits; but I mean to say if a man is only indented to me for one year, and probably out of that I may have lost his services for two or three or six months, and during which I am obliged to support him, at the end of 12 months he may leave me, from caprice, or be induced by a small additional hire from a neighbour who has not been put to the trouble and ex-

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pense I have; and after I have erected cottages for them, they may all be moved from me, and I should be then left in the same helpless situation I am now. If there was an engagement for three years, which has always been the case with all white servants who have gone from this country, and an engagement to give notice, say a year's notice, whether they intended to remain or remove; then I could supply myself with other labourers; but for one year I could not undertake it.

5926. Now put the term of three years in it; take into your mind the whole of this question; assume that the planter was permitted to have the negro for three years, and that it cost the Government so much per head to bring that negro into Jamaica, would it then be worth the planter's while recouping the expense to Government of so bringing him in?—I think it would; but supposing the expense to the Government to be 60 dollars a head, that the planter, if he obtain that assistance, and that assurance of continuous labour from those labourers for three years, should have this given to him as a loan; that this should become a lien on his property, to be repaid in three years, or in six years, or 10 years.

5927. Supposing the Government to take upon themselves the whole management of the immigration; that is, suppose Government to send proper officers to the coast of Africa, to prepare vessels proper to convey negroes voluntarily going to the island of Jamaica, and then the government of the island of Jamaica to have power under their own regulations to put any number of negroes on any man's estate who asks for them, the law being that they should remain there three years, would it not be worth the while of that planter to recoup to the mother country the expense of bringing those negroes to that estate?—It would, no doubt.

5928. Have you ever been to St. Domingo?—Yes.

5929. At present there is no intercourse between St. Domingo and Jamaica?—None, except the intercourse of the packets.

5930. Between the people, would it not be for the benefit of Jamaica if the intercourse was free between the two islands?—I decidedly think so; I think the proposition was made, and rejected by the President of St. Domingo.

5931. As far as the islands themselves are concerned, would it be beneficial?—Yes.

5932. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You stated, in your opinion, that 25,000 immigrants would be necessary; on what was the opinion founded; was it a mere vague surmise, or have you founded that opinion on any reasonable grounds for such a calculation?—I founded it on the number of labourers that we formerly had, under slavery, and the number that were employed in agriculture, and the number of those who have withdrawn themselves from the active operations of the estates as labourers.

5933. *Chairman.*] Have you ever estimated the necessary number of labourers at a higher amount than 25,000?—Yes, I have; I should like to see 100,000.

5934. You think 100,000 would not be too much?—There is plenty of field for the employment of that number of 100,000.

5935. That does not apply then, when you talk of 100,000, to the present cultivation?—No, to the extension of the cultivation, inasmuch as the sugar cultivation is of consequence to the supply of Great Britain.

5936. Viscount *Chelsea.*] In making estimates of the amount of the additional labour you require, do you take into consideration that the free immigrants would not perform a greater amount of labour than the negroes in slavery?—I do not think they would perform a greater amount of labour.

5937. *Chairman.*] You stated that medical men had very much left the island?—Yes.

5938. What is the cause of that?—Because formerly the proprietor paid for the attendance on his slave, and paid at the rate of 3 *s.* sterling per head in some districts, and in others, a dollar or 4 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling.

5939. Are not negroes now willing to pay the medical men?—They will not pay; I have argued with them, that they could not pay the medical men on better terms than their former masters had them, and that it would be a small sum to them for the safety it would convey.

5940. They do not pay?—They will not; I have known many deaths in consequence.

5941. Are

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5941. Are they not sensible of the advantages of medical attendance?—I do not think they are; they would rather employ a man who calls himself a black doctor.

5942. They stand in need of it?—Yes.

5943. They are willing to pay for other advantages of which they are sensible?—They are willing to pay for clothing and for the keep of a horse.

5944. Are they willing to pay for other advantages of which they are sensible?—I am not aware.

5945. Are they not willing to pay for religious instruction?—Yes.

5946. Are they not willing to pay for education?—Not freely, some of them do. They do not allow their children to go into the fields at all.

5947. Mr. *Barclay*.] On what do you ground your opinion that, provided you had abundant labour, you could compete with the slave colonies; you stated that you were not aware of the price of sugar in Cuba?—I was not aware of the precise price.

5948. On what calculation do you found that opinion, that you could compete with slave labour?—Because, if free labour is abundant, it is a well-ascertained fact, that a person who cultivates with free labour, cultivates with great advantage over slave labour.

5949. In the postscript of a letter, dated Kingston, the 20th May, it is stated, "Our last advices from Cuba quote the price of sugar at 6 *s.* to 8 *s.* sterling the cwt." Is it your opinion, then, by means of free labour, you could compete with such prices of sugar?—I am not a sugar cultivator, but I apprehend we could.

5950. Mr. *Godson*.] The difference being from 6 *s.* to 20 *s.* between Jamaica and Cuba at the present moment?—Sugar was selling at Jamaica when I left, from 22 *s.* to 28 *s.*

Jovis, 30° die Junii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Mr. Hawes.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Godson.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *William Knibb*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *W. Knibb*.

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5951. Mr. *Hawes*.] YOU are a Dissenting Clergyman in Jamaica?—Yes.

5952. A missionary of the Baptist Society?—Yes.

5953. Will you state how long you have been in Jamaica, and what opportunities you have had of judging of the past and present condition of the negro population in that island?—I have been in the island nearly 18 years, and during that time have been in several parts of the island, and in intimate connexion with a great number of the formerly slave and now emancipated population.

5954. Have you had considerable personal intercourse with the labouring population?—I have.

5955. Can you state to the Committee what amount of labour was ordinarily exacted from them as slaves, in the field and in the boiling-house, or about the buildings, during the period of crop?—It varied on different estates, from 16 to 18 hours, I should say, with spells. I do not mean to say that the same persons were kept all that time, but that was the time the mill was kept about; they spelled about every eight hours.

5956. Did any alteration in the amount of labour exacted from them take place under the apprenticeship system?—During the apprenticeship system a scale of labour was agreed to by the planters in, I think, every parish, and submitted to Sir Lionel Smith, and that scale of labour was afterwards printed in the Jamaica Almanack.

5957. Can you at all state the date when it was published?—No; I think it was in 1836; it is in the Jamaica Almanack.

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5958. Can you state what specific alteration was made by that, as compared with the amount of labour exacted during slavery?—During the apprenticeship the apprentices could only be compelled to labour so many hours per day; I think it was nine hours, sometimes eight hours; some worked on the eight hours' system and some on the nine.

5959. Can you state what proportion the amount of daily labour now required of the able-bodied negro bears to that exacted from him under the system of slavery and apprenticeship?—The amount of labour for the labourers now is computed the same as the scale during the apprenticeship; they consider (at least, as far as my information goes) that the same amount of labour that was laid down in the scale should constitute a day's labour now.

5960. Does the free labourer now work the same number of days continuously that he did in the state of apprenticeship?—Yes.

5961. Speaking generally, that is the case?—Certainly.

5962. Can you state more particularly how many days' labour per week, within your knowledge, the negroes usually give to the estates on which they are located, both in and out of crop?—Out of crop it is generally four, in crop five; there is on some estates some difficulty to obtain the fifth day's labour, but I think that is diminishing.

5963. Are you acquainted with any complaints, on the part of planters in Jamaica, of a want of sufficient or of continuous labour on their estates?—There is a very general want expressed in some parts of the island; but my own impression is, that it is much more frequently expressed than the state of things, taken as a whole, would warrant.

5964. Can you state any cause of those complaints of the alleged deficiency of continuous labour, supposing it to exist in any part of the island?—The cause assigned for it is the disinclination of the labourers to work consecutively; but my own opinion is, that that is not generally the case; but that wherever fair wages have been offered, and those wages have been regularly paid, there is no want of continuous labour.

5965. As far as you know, are the wages regularly paid weekly in money to the labourers, or are you acquainted with any exceptions?—I am acquainted with several exceptions; but for the last year, or perhaps more, there has been a decided improvement in the payment of wages.

5966. They have been paid more regularly?—Yes, that is, in the district where I reside, and to which my knowledge extends.

5967. What district is that?—In the parish of Trelawney.

5968. In consequence of that greater regularity, is there a better disposition on the part of the labourers to work?—Decidedly so.

5969. In your opinion, if adequate and fair wages are regularly paid, would a sufficient amount of work be obtained to keep up the cultivation of the Jamaica estates?—I think so.

5970. You have no reason to doubt that, from your intercourse with the labouring population?—Not in the least.

5971. Have any portion of the labouring population complained to you of the want of sufficient wages, or of the want of the regular payment of wages?—They have, in several instances.

5972. Can you inform the Committee, the wages paid to free labourers, or rather to job-gangs during the period of slavery?—It averaged from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* old currency.

5973. Can you state it in sterling?—Three shillings and four-pence is 2*s.* sterling, and 2*s.* 6*d.* is 1*s.* 6*d.* sterling.

5974. For what was that paid?—For day labour; cane-holes were dug by the job, varying from 10*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.* in old money; 7*l.* 10*s.* is 4*l.* 10*s.* sterling.

5975. Can you inform the Committee at what rate the labour of the apprentices was usually valued, when they applied to purchase the unexpired term of their servitude?—I was present at a great many valuations, and it averaged, if they were tradesmen, sometimes 3*s.* sterling a day, at other times 2*s.*, and for able-bodied negroes, four bits, that is 1*s.* 6*d.*; I never heard any lower, I have heard some higher.

5976. Will you explain more fully how the valuation was made?—The valuation was made at so much a day, which was sworn to by the owner as the value of the apprentice's labour; from that one third was deducted for casualties. The

person

person buying his apprenticeship did not pay for every day; but that was the amount per day; and after reckoning the number of days, one-third was struck off for casualties, for sickness, or possibly death, or anything that might intervene before the termination of the apprenticeship, supposing the apprentice should not purchase himself.

5977. Immediately subsequent to the period of the apprenticeship were there any meetings of the planters, for the purpose of regulating the price of labour in a state of freedom?—Yes.

5978. Was there any consultation with the labourers upon the subject?—No, one of the planters requested permission that I should be present on behalf of the labourers, but it was objected to.

5979. Had you any communication with the labourers themselves on the subject?—I had.

5980. Have you any objection to state to the Committee what passed between you and them upon the subject, as expressive of their feelings upon the proposed prices of labour?—When I heard of the meeting of the planters, I asked one of them what was the amount of wages they had fixed in their own minds, and he told me from 7½*d.* to 1*s.* currency a day; he asked me what I thought the people would think of such a proposal, and I said at once, they will not agree to it, it is much too little; their masters have frequently sworn solemnly that they were worth so much per day for their work, and it is not to be expected they will take any less, numbers of them having paid that sum for their freedom.

5981. Were the labouring population acquainted with the value put by the masters upon their labour during the unexpired term of the apprenticeship?—Most certainly; it was all done in open court, and being deeply interested in it, they would generally communicate it one to another.

5982. Then this regulation of the price of labour by the masters was an attempt, in fact, to lower wages, as compared with the valuation of a day's labour in the state of apprenticeship just before?—Certainly.

5983. Have any alterations in the price of labour taken place recently?—Very little; in some parishes they have, on some occasions, laboured for 1*s.* 3*d.* a day instead of 1*s.* 6*d.*, but it is by no means general.

5984. Is that the price of labour at the present day?—One and sixpence sterling is the price in Trelawney for an able-bodied negro.

5985. For what amount of labour?—A day's labour; the negro considers that he has done it when he has done as much as a day's labour was put down at in the time of the apprenticeship; that has led sometimes to disputes, but a great quantity of labour is now performed by job work, which appears to give greater satisfaction, or, at least, less dissatisfaction on both sides.

5986–7. Is there a disposition on the part of the labourers to work continuously at job work or piece work?—My impression is, most decidedly.

5988. To work industriously and continuously?—Yes.

5989. That is your opinion, from your general knowledge of the labouring population of Jamaica?—It is.

5990. Taking into consideration the high price of provisions and other supplies in Jamaica, are you of opinion that the money wages which the labourers receive, are adequate to their maintenance, taking in their provision grounds, upon the assumption that they pay rent for those grounds?—Their present wages are adequate to their maintenance.

5991. Can you give the Committee any information as to the tenure by which the labourers hold their huts and provision grounds?—It is generally by weekly tenancy.

5992. Do they pay rent, generally?—Yes; it varies in different parts of the island. They pay rent generally in Trelawney.

5993. Is their occupation connected with their daily labour, and dependent upon it?—They can be ejected, if they refuse to labour, at a week's notice.

5994. Has the mixing up of the wages of labour and tenancy given rise to great dissatisfaction on the part of the negroes, and interfered with the cultivation of estates?—It has been the most perplexing and annoying thing with which all parties have had to contend, and has tended more to diminish labour than all other circumstances put together.

5995. Then your opinion is, that rent should be kept quite distinct, and that

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wages should be paid for the day's labour, wholly irrespective of the rent?—Decidedly so.

5996. Have ejectments been frequently resorted to on the part of the planters, and has much irritation followed from that?—At first, soon after the apprenticeship closed, they were very frequent, but they have become much less so lately.

5997. Has that arisen from a better understanding between the planter and the labourer?—Yes.

5998. May the Committee safely infer from that that the labourer works more continuously?—Yes.

5999. Have any considerable number of labourers left the estate and settled themselves on land of their own?—A great number.

6000. On their own freeholds?—On their own freeholds. I took great pains before I came home to ascertain how many persons in connection with the churches under the care of the Baptist missionaries in our part of the island had purchased land, and having seen their titles with my brethren, I found that in the Baptist Western Union, which reaches from Port Maria down to Savannah-la-Mer, 3,316 persons had bought land, for which they have paid 38,452*l.* sterling; 1,801 had built or were building houses, for which they had paid 57,883*l.* sterling.

6001. Is the number of independent holders of land increasing?—Very rapidly indeed.

6002. Is any obstruction thrown in the way of the purchase of freehold land?—Not now, that I am aware of.

6003. Can you state whether there was at any time any obstruction; and if so, what was the nature of it?—Soon after the apprenticeship, we had great difficulty in purchasing land, but recently, as far as my information extends, there is, I think, among the resident planters, a feeling decidedly favourable to the formation of free villages; several of them have told me, that they feel confident that that is the only way in which they shall be able to manage successfully.

6004. Would the extension of small freeholds tend materially to improve the condition and character of the labouring population?—Most certainly, because having a home, from which they cannot be ejected at a week's notice, they will be much more solicitous to obtain comforts for that home, and to improve it; the houses they are now building on the north side, are most of them shingled and floored, and have separate apartments in them.

6005. Is there a fair opportunity for the sale of all their produce from such land?—There was a law passed the year before last, I think, preventing the sale of sugar and coffee in small quantities; but I am not certain whether that has been repealed or not; I rather think not.

6006. Viscount *Howick.*] When was it passed?—About two years ago.

6007. *Chairman.*] What was the smallest quantity they could sell?—I think they could not sell under 1 cwt. of sugar.

6008. Mr. *Hawes.*] Were they allowed to sell unmanufactured coffee?—The terms of the Act were, if I remember right, "manufactured coffee," they could sell it in the husk, but they were not allowed to sell it in a manufactured state in less than a certain quantity.

6009. In fact, the law of the island interferes with the free sale of the produce of the possessions of those small freeholds?—Certainly.

6010. They are not in the same position as the holders of large estates, in that respect?—Not by the law.

6011. Then if they should produce a small quantity of sugar, they would be compelled to sell it to a planter; they could not sell it in the local markets?—They could not sell it in the local markets legally; they do sell it, however, as the law is very frequently evaded.

6012. That answer applies to coffee as well as sugar?—Yes.

6013. Can you at all refer more specifically to the Act in question?—No, I cannot, I think it was the Act regulating hawking and peddling; I did not bring any of the Acts over with me, not expecting to be examined on the subject.

6014 Has the effect of that Act been to prevent the cultivation of sugar and coffee by small freeholders?—It has.

6015. In reference to those who are now settled on lands of their own, do they work for adjoining estates, or do they devote themselves exclusively to the cultivation

cultivation of their own grounds?—I asked that question of the whole of the Baptist missionaries before I left, and from one and all I received the answer, that as far as their knowledge extended, they were perfectly willing to work on the neighbouring estates, and did wherever they could get fair wages for their work. There has been a diminution of labour on some estates near to those villages while they were building their houses, but the quantities of land sold, and generally sold by us to them, are so small that they cannot obtain a livelihood without working somewhere else; our desire being that the cultivation of the sugar-cane should proceed, but proceed on righteous principles. I have had a great deal to do with the free villages; I know their locations, and as far as my knowledge goes, the only diminution of labour has been while the cottage was erecting. As soon as that was built, they would begin to work upon the estates and in that opinion all my brethren concurred.

6016. Then may the Committee infer your opinion to be, that the free village system will not interfere with the cultivation of estates?—Most assuredly, but promote it; and in that opinion I am sustained by almost every practical man with whom I have conversed in Jamaica.

6017. And that that, combined perhaps with the free sale of the produce of those properties, would not only add to the produce of the island, but tend to satisfy the labourers, and to improve their habits of industry?—Certainly; although this law to which I have referred has been passed, I do not think it has been very strictly acted upon; my opinion, decidedly is, that amongst the majority of planters in Jamaica (there will be exceptions in all cases) there is a desire, as far as they can, to prevent the operation of any laws inimical to the labouring population; that is a growing desire.

6018. And that feeling has been increasing of late?—Certainly, it is increasing every day.

6019. Have the labourers themselves complained, to any extent, of that law as interfering with the sale of their produce; or have they so evaded it, as in point of fact to render it inoperative?—There were but very few of them that had commenced the cultivation of sugar, especially in Trelawney; there were some in St. James's that did complain at first, but recently we have heard no complaints, from the circumstance to which I have referred. My own impression is, that very few of the planters in Jamaica would wish to interfere with that.

6020. Do you think the cultivation of sugar will go on upon those small properties?—Only in those places that are far away from sugar estates, where they have a sale among other settlers.

6021. Do you think they can produce sugar more or less economically than the planters?—I should think much about the same; but I think the planters could produce it much more economically than they do.

6022. You of course have heard of the existing complaints of the embarrassment of the planters, and the want of labour in Jamaica?—I have.

6023. Do you think that that embarrassment and those complaints have in some degree arisen from the poverty of the soil of some of the estates, and the want of capital?—Certainly.

6024. Is it your opinion that there is a want of capital in many cases, and that that has interfered with the due cultivation of estates?—In some instances, most decidedly; for instance, there is Penn Estate, in Trelawney, which is in Chancery; to my knowledge the people there have not received their wages for three or four months. They have walked to the court-house, time after time, to obtain it, but have not received it; and in almost every parish there will be estates, and there are estates situated similarly. On all such estates, if the soil were as rich as it is possible for the soil to be, cultivation would decrease. Unless the negro can get his money when he has done his work, work he will not.

6025. Are you acquainted with the parish of St. Thomas in the East?—Only by report; I have only been in it once; it is a long way from me.

6026. You do not know anything of the condition of the estates there?—Most of the complaints have originated from that quarter, and there was, at the commencement of freedom after the apprenticeship, a great deal of turmoil and quarrel there; but my situation was a hundred miles off from it, and, therefore, except from report, I cannot say anything about it; but I believe that want of labour has more frequently been said to exist there than in any other part.

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6027. Has the struggle between master and labourer on the point of wages, from what you have heard, been greater there than in other parts of the island?—Yes.

6028. Has the struggle been on the part of the masters to obtain that tariff of labour to which you have referred?—One great source of controversy was the *per capitem* system of rent, charging rent for every individual in the house; for the man and for his wife, and for every child; and in some instances they have distinctly charged not only for the ground, but for the cocoa-nut trees that grew on it, and not merely there, but in St. George's; but that was at the first entrance of the thing; I do not think there is anything of that now; my impression is, that throughout the whole of the island a better state of things exists on both sides, and is gradually improving.

6029. Both with regard to the produce and relation between master and labourer?—Yes.

6030. Are the taxes of Jamaica, local and general, heavy or not?—They are very heavy.

6031. Does any large proportion of this taxation fall upon the labouring population?—My opinion is, that the whole of the taxation, by whomsoever paid, falls eventually on the consumer of that which is taxed; and the taxation of Jamaica, with the expenditure incurred both in raising it and in spending it, is, in my opinion, the great source of its present depression. For instance, five-sixths of the population of Jamaica are Dissenters, supporting their own places of worship, maintaining now their pastors, while the expense for the Established Church alone during the last year was 3*s.* sterling per head for man, woman, and child, taking the population at 400,000.

6032. Upon the whole population, black and white?—I speak of the whole. It amounted, besides what is sent from England, to the sum of 65,919 *l.* 18*s.* sterling.

6033. Is this beginning to be felt as a grievance?—Most decidedly so.

6034. In addition to maintaining their pastors and their own places of worship, do the labouring population among the Dissenters, as well as the Dissenters generally, also subscribe to maintain schools?—They do.

6035. In the schools of the Dissenters is any payment required for the education of children, or is it given gratuitously?—In the schools connected with the Baptist Missionary Society, without exception, they have to pay for their instruction.

6036. Do they take great interest in the education of their children?—They are very regular in sending them, but they do not feel that deep interest in paying for them that we wish them to feel. They do pay so much per week; we consider it our duty to impress upon them that it is their duty, and that they ought to esteem it their privilege, to pay for the instruction of their children, considering that gratuitous instruction, by whomsoever given, is inimical to the welfare of the community.

6037. Can you give the Committee any notion of the sums contributed by the labouring population for the purpose of education and for religious objects since emancipation?—I have a general statement of the three churches connected with myself. From 1835 to 1840 we raised 18,353 *l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* currency, which is 11,013 *l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* sterling; that was in three churches under my care.

6038. *Chairman.*] For what purposes was that raised?—For building chapels, and education, and other matters connected with the mission with which I am connected.

6039. Mr. *Hawes.*] It is hardly necessary to ask you whether their moral and religious habits have improved?—Most decidedly they have.

6040. Upon that point you entertain no doubt?—No doubt; the concurrent testimony of all the special magistrates in the island, or nearly so, proves it.

6041. Do they regularly attend Divine worship?—Very much so, much more than in England; the Sabbath is much better observed in Jamaica than in England.

6042. Is marriage more regarded by them than it was?—From the year 1835 down to the termination of 1840, the Baptist missionaries alone married 7,861 couples.

6043. Is there any public provision for the poor in Jamaica?—Yes.

6044. How is it raised; is it a public or a parochial tax?—A parochial tax, I think.

6045. How

6045. How is it administered?—By the vestries.

6046. Who are the members of the vestries?—They are elected annually.

6047. Is there any qualification for vestrymen?—They must be freeholders; I do not know that there is any other.

6048. There is nothing to exclude a coloured man who is a freeholder?—Certainly not, there is no distinction of colour now.

6049. Is the Poor Fund satisfactorily administered?—The fact is, that we support our own poor; there is not a Baptist in the Western Union a pauper, and therefore I know little about it. We have not one that receives parish aid in the Baptist Western Union.

6050. With regard to the laws regulating the relation between master and servant, are they satisfactory at present, as to giving the labourer, for instance, a remedy against his master, in the event of any dispute?—The fact is, that disputes in Trelawney are so fast dying away, except a few petty quarrels among themselves, that there are very few that come before the courts; there are sometimes summonses, and as there will be in all countries, for non-performance of work; but during the last 12 or 13 months, in the district in which I reside and around it, they have been of very infrequent occurrence.

6051. Are there any local justices in that district?—Yes, in all the parishes.

6052. Is the administration of justice by them satisfactory to the population?—There is always a special magistrate sitting with them.

6053. As regards the special magistrates, is the administration of justice in a satisfactory state; does it give confidence to the population generally?—Decidedly.

6054. Is there any greater degree of confidence placed in a special justice, as compared with a local justice?—My own opinion is, that the administration of justice depends in a great measure upon keeping the special magistrates there, magistrates totally unconnected with the parties who have to complain.

6055. Is there general confidence in the decisions of the special magistrates?—I think so.

6056. Have you heard any complaints of them?—There were a great many complaints during the apprenticeship, by the masters, but I have heard very few on either side since freedom has come.

6057. There is a general disposition, you think, on the part of the labouring population, to abide by the decisions of the special justices?—Certainly.

6058. Is that confidence increased by the knowledge that they are appointed by the Home Government, and do not derive their authority from any local source?—I should most certainly think so.

6059. With regard to the produce of Jamaica, which the Committee have heard has been very materially diminished, is there any special cause to which you would attribute that diminution within the last two or three years?—It is to be attributed to several causes; partly to the almost universal bickerings and strifes at the first entrance of freedom after the apprenticeship, and partly to the system of double rents; that is, rent for every individual in the house; and, especially, to droughts in the island, which, with the other circumstances, certainly materially increased that result.

6060. When was the dry weather to which you refer?—In 1839 and 1840.

6061. It extended over two seasons?—Yes.

6062. Do you consider that to be a great and principal cause of the diminution of the produce?—It was one principal cause; but there was at the commencement of freedom a very general panic amongst the planters, that the people would not work, so that in many instances they neglected, in my opinion, taking the proper methods to secure the first crop. Some were exceedingly violent, and said, "It will be better for us to lose the first crop altogether than to give this rate of wages." I refer to the years 1838 and 1839.

6063. At the present moment, you have already stated that those causes of difference are daily diminishing?—They are daily diminishing; and there will be a very good crop of sugar this year, I have no doubt.

6064. And you think there will be no want of labour to get the crop in?—Not if the planters have money; but they will not get it without.

6065. If they pay fair wages, you think there will be no difficulty in obtaining continuous labour?—I feel confident there will not.

6066. Fair wages you conceive to be about 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day?—Yes, I think so; I

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have always in my intercourse with the people told them that I would not give them any more; I have employed hundreds of them in connexion with the Mission; I have had to build several chapels and school-houses; I never have been without labour for the last 10 years in Jamaica. When they have asked me, as they sometimes have, for more, I have said, "No, I do not think you ought to have more, nor do I think you ought to have less."

6067. And if, in addition to that, a system of piece or job work were adopted, you think that would tend still further to stimulate the labourers?—Whenever job work is carried on upon an estate, there is less discontent than elsewhere, let it be whatever labour it will; whether digging cane-holes or cleaning canes, or building walls, the people like it generally best; sometimes the masters complain that they do not do it properly, when they do it by job work, but I have tried both ways; I have built walls and cleaned pastures, and I always found job work the best; if they did not do it well for me, I would not pay them.

6068. From your general knowledge of Jamaica, have you been able to draw any distinction between estates managed by proprietors on the spot, and those managed through attorneys and agents belonging to absentees residing in England?—A proprietor told a brother missionary of mine, Mr. Abbott (I allude to the proprietor of Drax Hall), that he pays 1*s.* 6*d* sterling a day, when he has day work done, and that he cleared 5,000*l.* sterling last year, and he expected to clear 7,000*l.* this.

6069. The estate you refer to is in the hands of a resident proprietor?—Yes.

6070. Paying, in your opinion, adequate wages?—Yes.

6071. Do the labourers upon that estate work by piece work?—Very frequently; there has not been a single disagreement on either side since the contract was settled; in some cases the missionaries have been requested by both sides to settle the terms of the contract; Mr. Abbott settled the contract with them. The rate of wages, the houses, and the grounds, are kept perfectly distinct, so much so, that the proprietor will not allow them to pay the rent at the time they receive the wages, that they may always keep it distinct; and he says he can get all the labour he wants.

6072. Mr. *Barclay.*] Is the proprietor's name Pink?—That was the former proprietor; I think it is a coloured son of his.

6073. With regard to the payment of rent, is it usually deducted from their wages, or when is the rent paid?—Generally they pay the rent when they please; it was deducted at first, which was a source of a little annoyance, but on many estates now a book is kept in which it is entered; that is the way in which the rent system is kept up, and they pay just when they please; it is not deducted now.

6074. The payment of rent is a separate distinct payment, subject to an arrangement between the master and labourer?—Yes.

6075. Mr. *Hawes.*] How are the women now chiefly employed?—In crop time they are employed about the mill and in cutting canes with the children; out of crop they are not in the field near so much as they used to be.

6076. Do they attend more to their domestic duties and the care of their families?—Yes.

6077. Is the population by natural means increasing rapidly in Jamaica?—Most decidedly, especially where the influence of Christianity is felt; and free villages are rising up even on the top of Mount Diabola; it is covered with free cottages.

6078. You have heard of the demand for immigration on the part of the owners of property in Jamaica; what in your opinion would be the effect of an importation of labourers to the extent of 50,000, in the course of the next few years, upon the labouring population?—I think the effect would be of the most painful kind; I do not think, myself, any more labourers are wanted. In the first place, they cannot pay for those they have on all the estates; how they are to pay for more I do not know, with such a heavy taxation. With respect to the white immigration, that has been a most complete failure; I have seen scenes of destitution, scenes of actual cruelty of the most appalling kind, and no greater kindness could be done by the British Government than freighting a ship to take the poor wretched victims home. Of all the misery I have ever beheld or heard of, I have known nothing that has equalled this atrocious system of European emigration. I have visited the people and tried to alle-

viate

viate their miseries, but nothing but death, or the removal of the few that remain, will be of any avail; and I am confident there is not an individual in Jamaica at all acquainted with the facts of the case, at least there is none I have ever come in contact with, let them be attorneys, or overseers, or any body else, who is not fully convinced that European emigration is totally useless for the cultivation of sugar, and only entailing misery and starvation upon the victims who are deluded into it.

6079. Then white emigration you think out of the question?—Perfectly out of the question. I can state to the Committee the result on one estate: on Hyde Hall, the estate of Mr. Shirley, in Trelawney, between March and July 1841, twenty-one English emigrants arrived, six married, with wives and children; on the 2d of November, in the same year, twelve of the men and women were dead, four of the children were dead, six were sent to America sick, by myself and a few individuals, the Governor of the island assisting us; eight were left, five of whom were in the hospital. At Glamorgan, which is a penn close to Hyde Hall belonging to the same proprietor, four arrived on the 19th of April; in June the man, the woman and the child were dead. At Lucea 150 were landed, in 1835; a widow whom I met gave me the statement, the others I obtained upon the spot; twenty returned to England, and in 1841 all were dead except herself—her husband, and four children, among the number.

6080. Mr. *V. Smith.*] What did they die of?—Fever, generally.

6081. Caused by the climate?—Partly so; they had no comforts; there were no places provided for them.

6082. In speaking of the great misery you witnessed, do you allude to the mortality that ensued, or to the misery during their lifetime?—Misery during their life.

6083. What from?—From want of proper attention, and from want of proper food.

6084. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Do the cases you have stated give a fair average for the whole island, or are they extraordinary cases?—I think they give a fair average of the result of the white immigration, and I suppose there is scarcely any gentleman, at all acquainted with Jamaica, who for a moment supposes that ever cane-fields will be cultivated by white people; it is an Utopian scheme altogether, involving misery, starvation, and death.

6085. Mr. *V. Smith.*] Did those persons receive any employment for which they were paid wages?—They did, for the time they were located upon the estate, but they so soon got sick.

6086. And their wages were stopped?—Yes.

6087. Mr. *Hawes.*] What is the state of crime in Jamaica, at this moment?—It is decreasing. I will read an extract of a letter I received from a special magistrate, W. B. Jackson, esq. St. Thomas in the Vale; he writes to me, "The courts of quarter sessions and common pleas for this parish, (St. Thomas in the Vale) have just been opened and adjourned *pro formâ*, without a single case being brought before the jury; there was only one indictment for larceny, and in that the witnesses did not appear, and the prisoner was discharged on his own recognizance to appear next court. The extent and population of the parish considered, as well as the extensive jurisdiction of these courts, which are only held four times a year, renders this fact an important one; and what adds to its value is, that it is not an unusual one. It gives me much pleasure to bear testimony to the merits of a class of persons who are not inferior in morals to any that I ever met with, either in this country or in Europe." Special Justice Woolfry says, in a letter transmitted to me at the same time, "I have not the least hesitation in saying that crime is considerably diminished since the abrogation of slavery, and the apprenticeship. In the parish of St. John the tread-wheel has been sold, and the supervisor has received notice to quit at the end of the quarter;" indeed there has not been a single tread-wheel turned round once since we had freedom, they are all rusting; I was offered one for sale myself in the parish of Trelawney, but I had no use for it.

6088. Passing from the state of the population generally, to the system of farming, has that improved lately?—Not a great deal, I think; I think many improvements may take place; they have been erecting steam-engines in Trelawney, where I live, and several estates have steam-engines now; but my own opinion is, though I am not a practical farmer, from what I have seen, and

conversation I have had with the people, that a great many things might be grown that are not grown in Jamaica, which might be rendered useful in lessening the expense of the cultivation of sugar; and I will just mention one incident in proof of it: an individual, a member of one of my brethren's churches, agreed to keep the canes clean, (I think it was upon the Kay Valley Estate, in St. Ann's) upon condition that he was allowed to plant Indian corn. I know it to be a fact, because I bought the corn very frequently; he took the canes after they were planted, and kept them clean till the time of cutting, he being allowed to plant the corn, and to take the produce of the corn, and it paid him well, he said.

6089. Viscount *Howick.*] After the canes were taken off?—When the canes are planted, they are planted three feet apart; the corn comes to maturity in four months; it grows between the canes. I think there are many estates on which persons would agree to keep the canes clean if they had the privilege of planting corn.

6090. The corn is cut before the canes get so high as to interfere with it?—Yes.

6091. Mr. *Hawes.*] Speaking generally, since you have resided in Jamaica, has there or has there not been an improvement in the system of farming?—It has been improved, certainly.

6092. Greatly?—I should scarcely say greatly, but there has been an improvement. One of the greatest difficulties in crop time has been obtaining persons to carry the wet trash away; it used to be the labour of females, but it is a labour they do not like. Now, upon some of the estates in Trelawney and St. James's, they have little tram-roads for that purpose. It is the case also at Hyde Hall, and on some other estates. Now, many planters, if they were asked, would say that there is great difficulty in getting that work done, carrying away the wet trash.

6093. Do the labourers manifest any preference for estates where such relief to labour is provided by the use of machinery; do they prefer working on those estates?—They prefer working upon their own estates to working upon any others, even at a little disadvantage. The bump of locality is so strongly developed in the negro, that he will not go away if he can help it. It must be some very teazing act that will get him away. Doubtless they would prefer estates where the labour was most easy. They do not like work any more than other persons do, for its own sake merely. They like labour, for the result of labour, the money they obtain by means of it.

6094. When you speak of their own estates, you mean the estates they have been accustomed to in time of slavery?—Yes.

6095. Are the black population of Jamaica, from the increase of their property and the purchase of freeholds, gradually acquiring political power?—Certainly. I believe that 8,000 have recorded their freeholds already. They are recording them very fast; and this year there will be a great number, for the House of Assembly, rather foolishly, I think, in consequence of a dispute with the Council, have prevented the Stamp Act being passed, so that the negroes now can get their titles more easily. We can print them, and give the negro a complete title now for 3 *s.* Doubtless during this year there will be a great many recorded, for there is no stamp necessary for the title, and no stamp necessary for recording it.

6096. Looking to this increase of political power, is it not of the greatest importance that the relation between master and servant should be put on a perfectly just footing?—Certainly.

6097. That, for instance, rent and wages should be kept quite distinct?—Perfectly distinct, if they wish to be prosperous.

6098. With a view to an amicable state of feeling between master and servant?—Yes.

6099. And keeping in view the prospective increase in political power of the labouring population?—Yes.

6100. With regard to the economical cultivation of estates, has that increased of late or not?—I should say not, generally. My own opinion is, that if the proprietors of estates in England wish to have a return, they must go and look at them themselves. I never knew of an attorney of an estate failing; they ride in their carriages, as some persons say the Baptist missionaries do. The whole planting and political economy of Jamaica wants a thorough revision.

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The salaries paid to the persons connected with estates are most enormous. My view is, that the whole of this falls upon the labouring population, for they are the consumers. We have a tax of three per cent. now upon everything we obtain from England; it was five per cent. a year or two ago. If the political expenses of Jamaica and the ecclesiastical are taken together, I think the Committee will see that with that cumbrous load, the idea of reducing the negro's wages is a perfect fallacy. It is not his wages that oppress the planters, it is the cumbrous taxation, and the expensive system of management; and were the Dissenters relieved from all the ecclesiastical burdens they pay, and the community at large, from the enormous salaries paid to all the agents employed, from the Speaker of the House of Assembly down to the clerks of the vestries,—if we could be relieved from these burdens, then the planter might get on. But the idea of his only being enabled to get on by taking 1 *d.* or 2 *d.* a day from the labourer, who is to bear it, is perfectly fallacious. Those Africans that have been landed upon our shore have demanded higher wages the moment they have got there, than the labouring population had done. We have persons in the island that can speak all the languages of Africa. They know very well they have been brought there with the view of reducing the price of labour; and if it is supposed that the black will not mingle with the black, or if it is supposed that the black African will work for less money than the Creole, my impression is, that it will be found a complete mistake.

6101. Then is it your opinion, that the economical management of estates, by the introduction of machinery, by the enforcement of a rigid economy, and by improved methods of cultivation, has not kept pace with the exigency of the times, looking at the increase of the black population, and the increase of the political power of the black population?—Certainly not.

6102. The proprietors have not set themselves vigorously to work to reduce the cost of cultivation, and the expenses of the island generally?—Not merely the proprietors, but the political men in it have not done so; they are increasing our burdens every day by taxation. While they are crying out that they are ruined, almost every day brings some new taxation; just as if, in the present crisis in England, it were supposed that the way to obtain relief would be to reduce the labourers' wages here.

6103. Is it your opinion that the increase of the franchise among the black population will tend to remedy this or not?—It will in time.

6104. Is it not desirable that the remedy should be applied before the power to remedy it is acquired by the black population?—I think so.

6105. For the safety of property in the island, and the maintenance of good feeling?—I think so. My impression is, from an intimate converse with the most intelligent of the negroes, as their pastor, that they are quite as anxious that their masters should have a fair return as that they should have fair wages. When I have said to them sometimes, "Sugar is lower in England," they have said, "Minister, how is it we cannot buy it cheaper here? If sugar is at a low price in England, why do not they sell it cheaper to us?" And when they see overseers and book-keepers obtaining large salaries, and attorneys coming and driving with four horses now and then, supported out of the estate and living in large houses, no one can persuade them that they ought to have less wages, when others have so much more.

6106. With regard to St. Domingo, is there any intercourse now between Jamaica and St. Domingo?—Not that I am aware.

6107. Are you at all aware, from anything you have heard in Jamaica, that there is any objection existing on the part of the authorities in St. Domingo to free intercourse with Jamaica?—I can scarcely answer that question; I think there was some little difficulty raised when it was proposed, on the part of the authorities in St. Domingo, but on what point it bore has escaped my recollection.

6108. Is there any objection on the part of the labouring population of Jamaica to free intercourse between Jamaica and St. Domingo?—No.

6109. Have you had any communication with any one in the island of St. Domingo?—Not individually.

6110. You propose visiting that island?—I do.

6111. For what purpose?—For the purpose of seeing whether we can establish schools and a mission there.

 6112. Have

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6112. Have you any reason to think that you will be received there, and your object encouraged?—Every reason to think so.

6113. Upon what ground do you state that?—When one of our missionaries was there for his health, the other day, he had an interview with the President; and the President stated that he would not only welcome us, but assist us if we needed it.

6114. Then, so far it may be inferred from that, that there would be no objection on the part of the authorities of St. Domingo to free intercourse with Jamaica?—I think there was some point of law, some technicality, that prevented it. I have had a long conversation with an individual of the Society of Friends, who has recently been to St. Domingo, John Candler, who has printed a book giving statistics both moral and political of St. Domingo, and he is decidedly of opinion that missionary establishments and schools on the British system would receive every countenance.

6115. Do you think the population of St. Domingo would furnish free emigrants for Jamaica?—No, I do not think that. Mr. Candler states that every third labourer in St. Domingo is a freeholder.

6116. The Committee have heard a good deal of the wealth of the negroes in Jamaica; can you give the Committee any information upon that point?—I do not think they are wealthy. The reason why so many of them have been enabled to purchase land has been this: during the apprenticeship, and sometimes during slavery, they gained money by rearing fowls, and by their own industry. During the apprenticeship they obtained a good deal of money by working over-hours, the cultivation of sugar not being able to be carried on during crop by the eight or nine hours' system; so that, as a reference to the Parliamentary Papers will show, a number of them purchased their apprenticeship, many others saved their money up till they were free, and then purchased freeholds for themselves; so that it is not because they have had extraordinary wages since they were free, but because they were thrifty, looking forward to freedom.

6117. Mr. *Barclay.*] Do you think that, generally speaking, they are accumulating property now?—I should say not, generally; they are spending a great deal of money; they spend a great deal in their weddings, and they very liberally support their religious establishments.

6118. Then they must accumulate capital, in order to dispense it in that way?—They receive money; but if the idea is that they hoard it and lay it by, I should not think that is generally the case; I think it will be the case when they have their comforts around them; but very frequently now they have neat four-post bedsteads in their cottages, and neat sideboards, and mahogany chairs; and those things take their money as fast as they get it. I have been in some of their houses which are worth 300 *l.* or 400 *l.*

6119. *Chairman.*] In what part of Jamaica have you been resident the last eight years?—In Trelawney.

6120. Had you been resident there formerly?—I was always travelling about that part of the island; St. James's, Hanover, and Westmoreland.

6121. But your knowledge of the state of the island is chiefly limited to that district?—Not to Trelawney; it extends to the different parishes by which it is surrounded.

6122. Viscount *Howick.*] The western end of the island?—The western end of the island.

6123. *Chairman.*] Therefore the evidence you have been giving is principally founded upon your observation of the western end of the island?—Yes; those different parishes.

6124. You stated that during the crop time, in slavery, the work exacted from the slaves amounted to about 16 or 18 hours a day, but that that quantity of labour was given by spells, so that the actual amount of labour exacted from individual labourers in the day, did not exceed eight or nine hours?—I did not mean that; I meant that they stopped an hour or two (at least, that is my impression), and then went on again, but that they worked as long as they could; for example, they worked till six, and then stopped till eight, and then came on again.

6125. Under that system, how many hours' labour was any labourer compelled to give during the 24 hours?—I should think, 16 hours; I know it was so on some estates.

6126. During

6126. During apprenticeship it was nine hours?—Yes.

6127. And you stated it to be your impression that up to the present time, during freedom, the labourer is in the habit of giving nine hours continuous labour, as he did in the time of apprenticeship?—Yes, where he is paid for it.

6128. You mean where he is paid at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* a day?—Yes; when he can get his money there is never found any difficulty; it is not merely my impression, but the impression of many managers of estates and overseers with whom I am in daily intercourse; I have asked them repeatedly, and they say, We can get work when we can get money.

6129. And you mean to say, that as far as your observation goes, it is generally the case, that when the employer is willing to pay 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, the labourer is willing to work nine hours, and to work industriously, and to give full work to the estate?—To give the same amount of labour which the master said he ought to give according to the tariff of labour which was agreed to by the planters from one end of the island of Jamaica to the other.

6130. Mr. *Hawes.*] That is, where he is paid his wages weekly and regularly?—Yes.

6131. *Chairman.*] You have stated, that out of crop you find them willing to work four days, and in crop to work five days?—Yes.

6132. So that, generally speaking, if there be only punctuality and regularity in the payment of the wages, you find the labourers willing to work nine hours a day, and to give four and five days per week at that rate?—Yes; and during crop time they work more hours than nine, and then they get extra money.

6133. Is it your belief, that that statement applies to the whole of the island of Jamaica?—It applies to the whole of it as far as my information goes; I know very little about St. Thomas-in-the-East and that district. We have only one missionary in St. Thomas-in-the-East.

6134. Do you believe that they are willing to follow that system out to the extent of working additional hours in crop time if proportionate wages were paid to them?—Yes, I am sure of it.

6135. You stated, that last year an improvement took place in the payment of wages; that it was more regular than it had been before. To what do you attribute that?—To a better understanding between all parties. The previous state of things was naturally to be expected at the first entrance of freedom; I have no doubt there were faults on both sides.

6136. Do you think that the previous deficiency in the payment of wages arose rather from the want of a good understanding between the parties, than from the want of capital?—At first, we had not silver at all: silver was at a premium of from 5 to 10 per cent., and could not be obtained: cheques down to a dollar a piece, and even in some instances to a shilling a piece, were issued.

6137. Has the work given by the labourers increased in proportion to the improvement in the payment of wages?—I think it has.

6138. Have you never heard of any instances of labourers absenting themselves from their labour for one, and two, and three weeks continuously, and in other instances of their being in the habit of only working for two, or three, or four days in a week, so as to give the employer no certainty as to the amount of labour that he can calculate upon?—I have not heard of such a case in Trelawney.

6139. You stated, that before the abolition of apprenticeship, there was an intention on the part of the planter to pay wages at the rate of from 7½ *d.* to 1 *s.* currency a day. By whom was that objected to?—It was objected to by the labourers.

6140. Was that rate of wages ever put in practice?—No.

6141. Why not?—Because the labourers would not take it.

6142. Did the masters find that they could at that rate obtain no work?—Yes.

6143. What was the rate of wages at which they first commenced?—One shilling and sixpence a day sterling.

6144. Then the rate of wages has not materially varied?—It has not varied.

6145. You stated that, in some instances, you know of 1 *s.* 3 *d.* a day being now paid; is that a reduction from the former amount?—It is.

6146. Where that is done, then, they are able to obtain work at the rate of 1 *s.* 3 *d.* a day?—I should think they will have some difficulty; but in some places 1 *s.* 3 *d.* a day is quite equal to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* in another place. For instance,

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in the back part of St. James's the negro grounds are much more propitious than in Trelawney; and I should say that 1 *s.* a day in St. George's or Portland was equal to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day in Trelawney, because the provision-grounds are so much better.

6147. Which do you think the negroes prefer, the working by the day, or the working by the job or the task?—By the job.

6148. When they work by the job or the task, what amount of money are they able to obtain in a day?—I have known them earn 4 *s.* a day in digging cane-holes.

6149. You have stated that the present rate of wages is adequate to the maintenance of the negro, and not more than adequate?—I do not think so. He gets his luxuries by the employment of his time out of his regular working hours. Sometimes he may choose to rear cattle, or to employ what money he has in the purchase of a brood mare.

6150. But it is intended in the question to include whatever advantages he is able to derive from his contract with his master; and in almost all instances we understand that the negroes occupy provision-grounds belonging to the master for whom they work?—That is the case generally.

6151. Do they not obtain a considerable amount of money from the cultivation of provision-grounds?—That is the case in some parishes; it is not the case in Trelawney.

6152. But taking into consideration the whole advantages of his labour, namely, the money wages and the profits of his provision-ground, is not the labourer able to obtain much more than is adequate or requisite for his maintenance?—I do not know that he is. He may be in some instances; but you must take into consideration that he may be sick, that affliction may come, and that his wants are continually increasing.

6153. Suppose the case you have yourself stated, that a negro, who is able to obtain by task-work 4 *s.* a day, and who is also able to obtain a considerable sum of money at some seasons of the year by his provision-grounds; would not he by four days labour in a week be able to make much more than would be necessary for his maintenance?—If he were to gain 4 *s.* every day, and his provision-grounds were always to yield, and with no accidents. But I know no such case as a man obtaining consecutively 4 *s.* a day; it is only by doing a very hard day's work at digging cane-holes; and I know no instance of a man doing that all the year round, and tilling his provision-grounds.

6154. Mr. *Hawes.*] He could not earn 4 *s.* a day in digging cane-holes, without devoting his whole time to it, and having no time left to cultivate his provision-grounds?—Certainly not; it must be a very hard day's work.

6155. *Chairman.*] Take the other case, of a man earning 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, and other amounts, from that upwards, between 1 *s.* 6 *d.* and 4 *s.*?—I should think at task-work they generally get 2 *s.*, when task-work is done.

6156. Then take the case of a labourer who earns 2 *s.* a day, and also cultivates his provision-ground; is not that man able to obtain more than is requisite for his maintenance?—Certainly; that is, for his mere eating and drinking; but I hope never to see them reduced to that starvation point, as that after a man has worked hard all the year, he should only have just enough to feed himself.

6157. Are not the indulgence in luxuries and expenditure of money, in the various ways you have stated, proofs that he does earn money beyond what would be expected to be obtained by free labourers in most countries?—I do not think he earns a greater amount of money in money.

6158. But he gains money's worth?—He gains money's worth by his own industry, more than a labourer can here.

6159. You have stated that the labourer does not like labour for its own sake, but that he likes it for its results; if then he finds that he is able to obtain the results which he desires with a less amount of labour, is it not natural to presume that he will avail himself of the advantages of his situation, and avoid continuous labour when he does not require it?—I always found that those persons who were most fond of comfort, and most desirous of being respectable, were the most continuous labourers. I have always found that those who were most diligent in attending the House of God, and most anxious to have their wives and children instructed, and to appear respectable, were the most industrious labourers.

6160. Have

6160. Have you not known cases of labourers who did not work continuously?—There may be some in Jamaica; I dare say there are.

6161. Is not the fact of having a horse to ride a luxury almost inconsistent with the station of a day labourer?—Not in Jamaica.

6162. Does not the fact of his having a horse to ride prove that the results of his labour are greater than a labourer might generally look for?—The fact is, that during the apprenticeship they saved their money, and bought brood mares, and those mares produced colts, and the colts produce money. They not only ride them, but they go to their provision-grounds with them; some of the provision-grounds in Trelawney are 16 miles off the estate. I believe there is a law in Jamaica that no brood mare pays tax; but whether that be the case or not, it is a very common thing in Jamaica for the negroes to have horses.

6163. How many brood mares and colts will a negro labourer have?—They seldom have above one.

6164. One brood mare with her family attending upon her?—They sell them as fast as they can.

6165. Where do they get provisions for those horses?—They pay for it; the estates take them in at so much per month pasturage.

6166. Is not that a further proof of the very abundant results of their labour, that they are able to pay for the keep of those horses?—I think the horses pay for themselves.

6167. By sale?—By sale; and by their being enabled to go to their provision-grounds, and bring a larger amount of provisions.

6168. Do you state that some of the provision-grounds occupied by the labourers are 16 miles from the estate?—In some instances, but the general average are less.

6169. Does the labourer then cultivate provision-grounds 16 miles off?—Yes.

6170. Can he do that consistently with continuous labour upon the estate?—He sends his wife and children there often to cultivate the grounds. But that is not the general average; seven or eight miles is the general average; but there are estates, for instance, Greenside on one side of Falmouth; the plantation ground of that estate is quite at the other end of the parish, up near the Alps, more than 18 miles, I think.

6171. You have mentioned also the sum of 11,000 *l.* paid in a few years for religious and educational purposes, and you have mentioned the immense sum of 38,452 *l.* spent by 3,316 persons in purchasing land, and building houses; are not those all further proofs of the very high rate of wages which they obtain, and the great profits they derive from their labour?—Not at all; they obtained the money in the time of apprenticeship and slavery.

6172. Do you mean that the whole of this money was obtained under the hardships of slavery?—No; a great part of it under apprenticeship, when the master could only work them for eight or nine hours, and any more work that he wanted, he was obliged to pay for. It was impossible that they could have obtained the money during freedom, because they bought a great deal of that land during the first year of freedom.

6173. Do you mean that they had greater means of saving money during the apprenticeship than they now have in freedom?—Not at all.

6174. If their means of saving money were not greater during the apprenticeship than they are now, as they saved money during the apprenticeship, it may be presumed that they save money now?—I hope they do.

6175. Then if they save money now, their wages are more than adequate for their maintenance and support?—In some instances they are; but those 3,000 are taken out of half the population of Jamaica.

6176. If, upon your own showing, their receipts are greater than are requisite for their support, as they are not willing to work, except for the sake of the results of labour, it is presumed that their labour will not be continuous?—I hope it will. With regard to the persons who have purchased that land, they are 3,000 out of a population of 150,000; those 3,000 have, by their industry, purchased so much land, and I hope they will continue to work. Some of those persons are now filling situations where they obtain better wages; for instance, one who was formerly a slave is now an overseer of the largest pens in St. Ann's Relief, a pen belonging formerly to Mr. Samuel Moulton Barrett.

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Many of those individuals at present occupy stations in life above that of a labourer; for instance, one man, Edward Barrett, on Oxford estate, has become a book-keeper, at a salary of 50 *l.* a year, and it is by those individuals that a good deal of this land is purchased.

6177. Have they not arrived at those positions of prosperity by means of the result of their successful labour?—Not altogether.

6178. Then how have they done it?—Many of those people were drivers in time of slavery.

6179. When did they make the money?—They made part of it during the apprenticeship, and part since.

6180. Then they have made it by the successful result of labour?—Yes, but not day-labour.

6181. Are those prosperous labourers, who are able to buy land, and to spend money in the manner you have stated, limited to the particular class of labourers of whom you are now speaking?—Not entirely, they are partly the one and partly the other. In some districts of Jamaica you can purchase an acre of land for 3 *l.* sterling, in another part the land would cost 20 *l.*, so that a person saving very little money in a mountain district would soon get an acre of land; but if he lived in the lowlands he would have to pay a larger price for it.

6182. You have expressed the opinion that, notwithstanding their prosperity, those persons will continue in the labour market; but does not experience and the whole history of Jamaica prove that it is doubtful whether they will do so?—Decidedly, I think not; I think when you consider the provocations they had to bear with in slavery, the conduct of the peasantry, their moral social, and religious behaviour, as acknowledged by every governor, and confirmed by almost every magistrate, is a proof that, if properly treated, they will still still cultivate the soil. It is my most decided impression that they will, and it is my most earnest desire that they should. I feel quite as great a concern that the proprietor should be fairly remunerated, if his agent abroad will adopt a proper system, as that the negroes should be properly remunerated. I am perfectly convinced that the interests of the two classes are inseparably connected eventually.

6183. You were understood to state that the provision-grounds in Trelawney were not as advantageous to the negro as the provision-grounds in other parts of the island?—In some other parts.

6184. What is the cause of that?—The seasons are not so propitious there for cultivation, so that a number of boats continually come from the more fertile negro grounds in St. George's up to Port Antonio, and from Lucea, in Hanover; they bring provisions to us. Many of the negroes in Trelawney are obliged to purchase provisions.

6185. Is the inferiority of the provision-grounds in Trelawney to such an extent as to prevent their deriving from the provision-grounds the great profit that arises from having the means of supplying themselves with provisions?—They have not for years raised enough to supply themselves.

6186. May not that disadvantage in some degree account for the labour in Trelawney being more continuous than it is in other parts of Jamaica?—I do not think that it is more continuous than in some other parts; I think the labour is quite as continuous in St. Ann's, perhaps more so.

6187. If those provision-grounds are barely sufficient in many cases to afford provisions to live upon, and are not sufficient in any case to afford a profit on the sale of provisions, they have nothing to live upon but the wages of labour?—And the sale of fowls, and eggs, and pigs.

6188. That would be common to all occupiers of provision-grounds over the island?—It would.

6189. The rate of wages does not vary materially in different parts of the island?—It does not.

6190. Consequently labourers in other parts of the island where the provision-grounds are more fertile would be in a better condition than those in the parish of Trelawney?—I should say that a labourer in Lucea district, or in Hanover, receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, would be in a far better situation than a labourer in Trelawney with the same amount of money.

6191. In fact it is quite consistent with the view you have stated, that labour

labour in other parts of Jamaica may be less continuous than it is in Trelawney?—I believe it is less continuous in St. Thomas-in-the-East.

6192. You have stated that great annoyance and difficulty has resulted from the mixture of wages and tenancy. What is the nature of the annoyance and difficulty which has arisen from that?—At the first commencement of freedom the proprietors of houses refused to let them at all in many instances unless the negro would agree to work so many days and at such a price, and if he refused the terms of work he was ejected from his house, and hence the annoyance and difficulty arose.

6193. Was that what you alluded to?—Yes.

6194. Was not that a mere matter of arrangement, resorted to by the planter in his own defence?—He might so esteem it, but whatever was his motive the result was the same.

6195. What was the result?—The result was an abstinence from labour on some estates for months after the apprenticeship had closed and freedom commenced.

6196. Then you did not mean to allude to any objection on the part of the negro to have his rent deducted from his wages?—They did not like the plan of its being taken when the wages were given; they had much rather, at least that is my impression, have received the full amount of wages and paid the rent as a distinct thing.

6197. Did that make any real difference to them?—It would be merely a difference in their feelings; it would make no difference in fact. But sometimes they considered the rents too high, hence other disagreements arose. On some estates when freedom commenced, the planters thought it best to give them wages and allow them to keep the houses and grounds without paying rent. My impression was that that was an erroneous view of the subject, and when freedom first came I was requested by Mr. Sharpe, who is now in England, to go round with him to several estates with a special magistrate to see what could be done. My own impression is, that if at first there could have been an agreement among all the planters to keep the two things distinct, a great deal of trouble at the transition from apprenticeship to freedom would have been avoided. But as far as my own information goes, especially in the parishes by which I am surrounded, matters are gradually progressing for the better; and my own opinion is, and my most ardent wish is, that everything that can militate against the prosperity of the island of Jamaica may be taken out of the way. I think the great difficulty is the cumbrous, burdensome taxation, and I think that emigration will never remedy it; but that if there were a strict and impartial administration of the civil affairs of the island, and the retrenchment which is rendered necessary by the circumstances in which the island is placed, and especially if the little feelings of prejudice which still exist were done away, as I hope they will be, that with the combined action of those causes the present population would in a little time be able by natural increase to supply the demand for labour. These are my sentiments, sentiments which I have arrived at after a good deal of thought given to the subject.

6198. You have stated that the extension of the system of small freeholds was beneficial; you meant that it was beneficial to the comfort and welfare of the negroes?—And to the estates.

6199. Has it not a tendency to diminish the supply of labour to the estates?—During the time they are building their houses, but not afterwards; but perhaps the Committee will understand it better when I inform them that whenever I have had to do with buying a place for a free village, I have tried to select a spot surrounded by a number of estates. For instance, I purchased a Pimento Walk at Duncan's, in Trelawney, which was surrounded with sugar estates. I sold the land in lots; seldom any person bought more than two lots; each lot was 52 feet by 108 feet. The persons from the neighbouring estates bought up this land very fast, and during the time they were building their houses there was a diminution of labour upon the property; but after the houses were built the planters and overseers around said, "Now we can get labour by task-work whenever we want it; there is no quarrel about rent." They go and take a job to build a wall at so much a yard, or to clean a pasture at so much an acre.

6200. What quantity of land in those villages does the negro usually purchase?—In that place the average is two lots, taking one with another.

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6201. How much is a lot?—Fifty-two feet by 108, with a road to it; I have lined it out as a town. I have another town near some other estates; there the lots are smaller.

6202. Mr. *Hawes.*] Those small lots are only sufficient for a house and garden?—That is all.

6203. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that those two lots each are all the land that each negro occupies?—Yes; they will try to purchase land in the mountain as soon as they can; my wish is merely to give them a house and garden at first.

6204. You are now speaking of some particular village in which you have yourself taken an interest?—Yes.

6205. But the question is rather directed to the system generally in the island. Is it not very common in the free villages, generally, throughout the island, for those negroes to be the proprietors of lots of land, to the extent of one acre and upwards?—Not generally speaking, it is in some instances.

6206. Where it is so, it appears from official documents before the Committee, that where a negro occupies as a proprietor a lot of land of any extent, he can derive a profit of 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* sterling per annum, upon that quantity of land?—I should be sorry to give such testimony, and I cannot understand how it can possibly be the case. If the labourer can get 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* an acre from it, it would be very advantageous to the planters to try the same scheme themselves. I have no idea of anything of the kind. The negro can buy it for 3 *l.* an acre; and can it be supposed that the planter would sell it for 3 *l.* an acre when he could get 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* an acre from it.

6207. Such is the statement in official papers, and if that is correct, is it not natural to infer that a labourer so situated would not be so readily found in the labour market as he was before?—My decided impression is, that that statement, as far as Jamaica is concerned, is decidedly incorrect. I do not think there is a single acre of mountain land in Jamaica that would yield 20 *l.* per annum to any man.

6208. You alluded to a law passed two years ago, making illegal the sale of sugar under a hundred weight?—I think that was the amount.

6209. Is that the only reason why the negroes do not cultivate sugar upon their plots of land?—Most of the plots of land would not be suitable for the cultivation of sugar, but there are some districts in St. James's, in the back of the mountain, about eight or ten miles beyond the Randall Estate, where they have cultivated sugar. I know one party in St. Ann's, who made his own mill, and produced a barrel of sugar.

6210. But the cultivation of sugar by the negroes has been very rare?—Yes.

6211. Has not the non-cultivation of sugar by the negroes proceeded from other causes than the law to which you have referred?—I think so.

6212. You stated that the cultivation of sugar ought to be carried on on righteous principles. Will you explain what you mean by "righteous principles"?—I mean that there should be a fair remuneration for labour; I mean that the taxes should be reduced, because I consider that those taxes now are pressing hard upon all the inhabitants of Jamaica. My own impression is, that a much better system would be introduced if estates were rented. There are many young men in Jamaica, overseers, who have saved money, who would be glad to rent estates, and I think they would be much more likely to succeed. In using the term "righteous," I did not mean to use it in contradistinction to "wicked," I meant fair and just.

6213. As far as the fair remuneration of labour is concerned, that righteous principle is already in operation?—It is; I think the wages are very fair.

6214. You say that the planters might produce sugar much more cheaply than they do; in what respects do you think there might be a saving of expense in the production of sugar?—I think that a portion of the land might be very well employed in growing in many districts vegetables and different kinds of corn, which would increase their assets without much increasing their disbursements. I think too, with regard to the cumbrous system of attorneyships, that if instead of persons managing estates, they were rented to an individual, that would reduce the expense. I think by the introduction of machinery it might be reduced, but especially by taking off a portion of the taxation on it; I saw a statement (I do not know whether it is correct) that the taxes on each hogshead of sugar amount to 8*l.*

6215. You

6215. You have stated that the labourers on one estate in Trelawney, had not received their wages for three or four months in consequence of the want of capital; why did they continue on that estate?—They remained in hope that they should obtain them.

6216. They were free to go elsewhere?—They were.

6217. What did they live upon?—Partly upon their provision grounds, and partly by getting labour somewhere else. They came to me to complain several times.

6218. Then the labourers residing upon that estate, and principally working for it, were enabled to maintain themselves there, although receiving no money wages at all?—I did not say "principally" working upon it; I said "partly." They were very poor; they had been sued for rent two or three times; it is a very small estate.

6219. You are aware that the export of sugar from Jamaica, has diminished two-thirds?—I know that it has diminished, but I do not know to what extent.

6220. Such being the fact that the exports have diminished two-thirds, do you not think that that enormous reduction is a proof that the planters have suffered from the want of continuous labour?—I think that at the commencement of the apprenticeship, as I have stated, they did suffer from the want of it on account of the mixing up the questions to which I have referred, and they have suffered from drought; but as far as my information goes, I never, either in Trelawney, or any of the neighbouring parishes, knew of an acre of canes being left on the ground for want of labour to take it off; I never heard of such a case; it may have happened in other parishes, but if it has, it is beyond my knowledge.

6221. Do you consider that the drought to which you have adverted, is the principal cause of the enormous reduction in the exports of Jamaica?—I think it was in a great measure the cause, combined with the other circumstances to which I have referred.

6222. You have stated that the introduction of a large number of immigrants would, in your judgment, produce very painful effects in Jamaica; what painful effects do you anticipate from an extensive immigration?—My own impression is, that very soon after their arrival there, they would demand the same rate of wages that the others did, and that the difficulties of the planters would be increased rather than diminished by them. My own impression is, that there is not an amount of capital to pay extra wages; in that, however, I may be mistaken, but that is certainly my opinion.

6223. Are the Committee to understand that the painful effect you anticipate would be increased difficulty to the planters?—I do not think it would reduce the rate of wages.

6224. What other painful effects do you anticipate besides an increase of difficulty to the planters?—I think, that if they were not employed, persons coming from Africa in a state of barbarism would most likely spread a great deal of mischief; idleness leads to crime. The introduction of 50,000 persons from Africa among the present population, if uninstructed, and probably unemployed, with a different language, and perhaps saying themselves, whether properly or not, that they had been deceived and decoyed, would, in the present state of Jamaica, lead to the most disastrous results, and might lead to anarchy and confusion.

6225. Why probably unemployed?—From their not accepting the wages that might be offered; for my decided impression is, that they would demand the same amount of wages, and perhaps higher, as they have done in some instances, when they have been landed.

6226. You think that the introduction of a large number of immigrants would not reduce the wages?—I do not think it would, in the first instance.

6227. But you think the result would be to give a very superfluous quantity of labour?—Unemployed labour.

6228. Are not those two answers in some degree inconsistent; would not the natural tendency of superfluous labour be to reduce wages?—I do not think so myself.

6229. Would not superfluous labour lead to competition for employment?—Yes.

6230. Would not competition for employment lead to a reduction of wages?—I do not think that would be the first effect; I think that if wages were tried

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to be reduced, those persons who have now land of their own, would for a time leave the cultivation of the soil; and as soon as ever those who were imported could obtain a higher rate of wages, I think they would strike.

6231. You think the existing labourers would leave the cultivation of sugar?—Rather than work for less wages.

6232. To what would they betake themselves?—They would live on their own means, or perhaps emigrate for employment somewhere else.

6233. Then their own means are sufficient without labour?—Not for any length of time.

6234. If their means are not sufficient, how could they betake themselves to those means, and abandon labour?—I stated that that would be the first effect; they might be brought in time to the wages. But supposing 20,000, 30,000, 40,000, or 50,000 persons were landed from Africa, my impression is, that the result would be most disastrous, and that it would not have the effect of reducing materially the expense of the cultivation of the sugar-cane. I do not see, myself, how the present taxes could be paid, and the present establishment kept up, with a reduction.

6235. Then the painful effects you anticipate from immigration would be effects bearing upon the planters, and not bearing upon the negroes?—They must bear upon both.

6236. How would they bear upon the negroes, if the effect was not to reduce the wages?—If the immigrants were idle, they might steal the provisions they have in their grounds: they might enter their houses, and rob them; they might form illicit connexions, and spread immorality and crime. I do not merely look to the question respecting the cultivation of sugar.

6237. You are contemplating possible dishonesty as the result?—I think idleness is sure to lead to that.

6238. Supposing immigration should be resorted to, and your anticipations should prove erroneous, and reduced wages should be the consequence of immigration, do you think the Jamaica labourer would be able to maintain himself independently and fairly, as a free man, upon a lower rate of wages than he now receives?—I think it is possible he might just maintain himself; I think that if he had 3*d.* a day less, he might possibly maintain himself, certainly.

6239. Viscount *Howick.*] You have stated that one of the great difficulties of Jamaica now is the taxation?—I think so.

6240. Do you object to the amount of taxes raised, or to the mode in which they are raised?—I think the amount is greater than is necessary, both for civil and ecclesiastical purposes, in the colony.

6241. You think that the payment of so large an amount of taxation presses upon the population?—I think so. My idea is, that all taxation comes eventually upon the consumer.

6242. Do you think that in the present condition of the labourers you see any evidence of their being unduly pressed by the existing taxes?—I think it does not press so heavily upon them as it does upon the proprietors.

6243. You think it presses more upon the proprietors?—At present; I think it presses upon all, in some measure.

6244. But in the actual condition of the negroes, you see no evidence that the weight of taxation falls very heavily upon them?—Not at present.

6245. You said that the negroes saved a good deal of money during the apprenticeship; but that in general it was not those who were employed as mere labourers; but that that statement was more applicable to those who were employed as drivers?—I think most of them saved something, at least the religious portion of them.

6246. If a man, as an apprentice, was industrious and desirous to save, he had the means of saving, even though he was a common labourer?—He had the means of saving.

6247. At that time what advantages had he, as compared with the state of things at present; had he any allowances or advantages that have now been withdrawn?—Yes; he had no rent to pay when he was an apprentice, and he had the same allowances of salt fish and other things as in the time of slavery.

6248. On the other hand he received no wages for the nine hours that he worked?—No.

6249. Do you conceive that the being allowed to occupy his house and land rent free, and enjoying those allowances, were an advantage to him equivalent

to that which he now enjoys by receiving wages for the nine hours which he formerly worked without wages?—Certainly not.

6250. You consider that to have the right of having wages during the time he is employed is much more valuable to him than those privileges which he had as an apprentice?—Yes.

6251. Then if he was able, with industry and frugality, to save money as an apprentice, of course he must be much more able to save money now?—He is more able to save money now.

6252. Then if the condition of the population is such that labourers, with industry and frugality, are able to save a considerable amount of money, can it be said that taxation presses heavily upon them?—They feel that it presses upon them, as Dissenters, in a great degree.

6253. I am not now speaking of the object to which the money is applied, but I am supposing the revenue to be only raised for necessary purposes. You do not mean that, in a pecuniary sense, taxation now presses upon the negroes?—Not particularly upon them.

6254. On the contrary, is not the negro in a situation in which he could afford some further contribution to the exigencies of the State, supposing it were necessary?—I do not know that; he is taxed now for his land if he buys it; he pays a tax for his horse if he has it.

6255. He has now a large command over the necessaries and comforts of life, and is able to save money?—That is the case with those who are industrious; they do save money, but I do not think the whole of the negroes are saving money.

6256. They are not all saving money, because they are not all industrious. Like every other population, there is a variety of character among them?—Yes.

6257. You have stated that you have great apprehension of the effects of a large immigration into Jamaica?—Yes; from what I have seen of European immigration, and of the vice and misery it has entailed. I have seen very few of the Africans that have been landed, but my brethren who have been in the locations have not had a favourable impression produced upon their minds; and my own impression is, that if a great quantity of Africans were introduced into Jamaica, the result would be most disastrous.

6258. Your chief fear as to the result of African immigration is on account of the moral results which you think it would entail?—Yes; I have great fears upon that point.

6259. You said that there are persons still in Jamaica speaking all the languages of Africa?—There are some speaking several languages, not all.

6260. From your knowledge of the habits of the negroes among themselves, can you state whether habitually amongst each other they speak the languages of Africa or English?—They speak English, I should think.

6261. And the African tongues are dying out amongst them?—They are dying out.

6262. Rapidly?—I think so.

6263. And you would be afraid, as one of the effects of a large African immigration, that it would keep up the use of those barbarous languages to a certain degree?—It would for a time. I think they would, like others, learn a doggrel English, which is a very doggrel one at present.

6264. Have you the same objection to the immigration of persons of the negro race from the United States of America?—There were a few emigrated to Jamaica under a silk company, but I believe they all died or left. They were coloured persons, not black. A silk company was established in St. Anne's, but I do not think they were properly selected; some were tailors, and one was a printer.

6265. Are you acquainted with the mode of living generally adopted by the negroes in Jamaica in their own houses?—Yes; I have been in their houses many times.

6266. What does their food principally consist of; is it provisions raised by themselves?—Provisions, and salt fish and mackerel; and now they purchase flour a good deal; on many estates in Trelawney there is a shop in which flour is sold.

6267. Is the main part of their diet afforded by productions of their own provision-

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provision-grounds?—In some parishes, not in Trelawney; the provision-grounds have not yielded well at all there lately.

6268. In Trelawney, do the negroes live chiefly upon provisions imported, or upon provisions grown in other parts of Jamaica?—Or flour purchased from America; I should not say principally, but they do need a considerable supply from other parishes. There is quite a trade carried on now between Port Antonio and Lucea; boats come every week, and provisions are brought up.

6269. Of what description?—Yams, plantains, and cocoas.

6270. And that constitutes a large portion of the food of the negroes?—It does.

6271. This applies only to Trelawney?—I think more to Trelawney than to any other parish I am acquainted with.

6272. Are you able to compare the condition of the negroes in Trelawney, where they live chiefly upon purchased provisions, with their condition in other parishes, where they live upon provisions cultivated by themselves?—I think there is a difference of at least from 3*d.* to 6*d.* a day in value; I think that with the good provision-grounds, which the Lucea and Hanover people generally have, a man obtaining 1*s.* a day, or 1*s.* 3*d.*, would be quite as well off as a person obtaining 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in Trelawney.

6273. Do you think there is any difference in the disposition to afford continuous labour in those parishes where the negroes live chiefly by their own provision-grounds, and in those parishes where they live upon purchased provisions?—From the information I have derived from my brethren surrounding me (and I think most of the planters there would agree in the same statement), there has not been a want of continuous labour; but I have been told, and I think that it is true, that in the district of St. Thomas-in-the-East they have had great difficulties, at least so individuals have told me, whom I most entirely believe, in obtaining continuous labour.

6274. Do you think that the difficulty of obtaining continuous labour has been found greatest in those parts of the island where the negroes have the greatest facility of maintaining themselves by the occupation of land on their own account?—Where religious instruction has not been afforded, I think that is the case.

6275. Mr. *Grantley Berkeley.*] What with the four-post bedsteads, the sideboards, the mahogany chairs, the riding-horses, the brood-mares, the provision-grounds, and the other advantages, whether arising during slavery, or during apprenticeship, or during freedom, you consider the labourers in Jamaica at present better off than the labourers in this country?—Decidedly; I should be very sorry to see them as badly off as the labourers here; half of them starving.

6276. Has the consumption of rum increased since the establishment of freedom?—I think not; we have got temperance societies in almost all our churches. I think there is a greater quantity sold in Jamaica now than there was formerly; but in the time of slavery and apprenticeship there was a quantity given on certain days. But we have scarcely a station in the island where temperance societies are not established.

6277. Are the negroes in the habit of sending to this country for wine?—Not that I have ever heard of; they buy it sometimes.

6278. Do they generally keep it in their house?—Not generally. If you were to go there, they would offer you a glass, some of them, I dare say.

6279. There has been an increased consumption of beer in Jamaica of late, has there not?—I think so.

6280. Has that been by the planter or the negro?—I think the negro has consumed on holidays more. On the 1st of August, I remember, there was not a bottle of porter to be had in the whole town. I do not think they take it as their regular beverage, but on marriages or birthdays, or high-days, and holidays, they do purchase it; but my impression is, that they do not regularly use it. Indeed, they could not, because they have to give 1*s.* a bottle for porter, and that would of course soon, if it was a common drink, absorb their wages.

6281. You have stated, that fair wages will always command work. Do you conceive that the labourer is the sole judge what ought to be the rate of wages?—No, I have used my influence with them to impress upon them that it must depend upon the price of produce.

6282. Must

6282. Must not the rate of wages depend also upon the general ability of the community to pay?—It must.

6283. Has the sale of those lands which the labourers have bought been brought about by the necessities of the planters?—I do not think so generally; I think the planters in many places now are anxious to sell, not from sheer necessity; but my impression is, that many practical men in Jamaica, who have seen the system tried, think, that by having the peasantry located on their own freeholds, they give them an interest in the soil, and an interest in the welfare of the country. My own impression is, that an individual who has a place of his own, from which he cannot be ejected summarily, will feel more pleasure in improving it, and getting comforts around him, than if from any circumstance, right or wrong, he could be ejected.

6284. Then it is your opinion that the sale of those lands did not arise from the necessity of the times?—I do not think it did; it might in some cases; I do not think it was generally the case. For instance, we have to pay a good round sum of money for the land. I bought 130 acres at the place I mentioned to the Committee, and I gave 2,800 *l.* for it, currency.

6285. You have stated that there is a want of capital among the planters; what has produced that want of capital?—I cannot really say what has produced it. There was not merely a great want of capital, but a great want of change. A great many estates in Jamaica have been mortgaged heavily.

6286. Has not that want of capital arisen from the impossibility of cultivation?—I think not.

6287. You have spoken of a charge being made upon the labourers for cocoa trees; do not you consider that the cocoa trees in Jamaica are as much the property of the proprietor as the apple trees in this country?—Yes; but if a person charges for an orchard he does not think of charging for the trees in it. If a man rents an orchard he rents all things therein.

6288. You have spoken of the great reliance on the special justices; does that reliance exist on the part of the planters as well as with the labourers?—I think that it is improving. My impression with respect to the whole of Jamaica and with respect to all classes in it, from the members of Assembly down to the meanest of the population, is that a great improvement is going on. That is the case with respect to the whole body of planters, so far as I have come in contact with them. I have received great kindness personally from them. Having mingled with them as I have done now for 17 years, and contrasting what formerly was the case with what is the case now, my evidence and the impression I have endeavoured to produce wherever I have been is, that there is a most interesting amelioration going on in all parties.

6289. You have spoken of a sense of reliance upon the special justices; does that reliance exist on the part of the planters as well as the labourers?—I think it does to a great extent; I do not say it is so firm, but I think it exists; I think the animosities created on both sides with respect to some special magistrates are all dying away.

6290. You have stated that you have seen the most abject misery among the white emigrants; do you not know one estate where white emigrants have been imported, and where they are contented and happy and doing well?—I do not know one.

6291. Do you know an estate called Pusey Hall?—I do not.

6292. You have stated that the attorneys of estates never fail?—I said that I never heard of one failing.

6293. Does the well-being of an attorney depend upon his salary?—Not altogether.

6294. What does it depend on?—I cannot say what it depends on entirely.

6295. Is not the proprietor bound to pay the salaries on the estate, whatever may be his fortune or the situation of his property?—I should think he is bound to pay them.

6296. The prosperity of the missionaries does not depend upon the prosperity of the estates?—It does, in a great measure. If the people had not the means of supporting us it would make against the prosperity of the mission, and that was the case in time of slavery; every Baptist missionary was supported from home, but since freedom commenced we have ceased to draw; we think our congregations are in that state that they can now support us; there are 28 of us, and we have come to the determination to stand or fall by that

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principle. If the people will not support us, we are determined that we will not abide with them; we are firmly persuaded that they will. There are some missionaries that have been supported there for years, but, generally speaking, a sum has been received from home for the individual expenses of the missionary; but we now hope, by the largeness of our numbers, not by the great amount that each one contributes, that they will cheerfully support those who preach to them, and also pay for the instruction of their children; and I am firmly convinced that our future prosperity, in a pecuniary point of view, must depend upon there being that state of society, as far as possible, in which each party shall have fair remuneration for the labour he performs, and for the capital he invests; and whatever means can bring about that to its fullest extent are most desirable, and whoever is the means of bringing it about, in my opinion, will be one of the best friends of Jamaica.

6297. Then it is your opinion, that the prosperity of the labourer depends upon the prosperity of the planter, and that the interests of religion depend upon both?—So far as pecuniary matters are concerned, and the obtaining of the money necessary for the purpose, and therefore in that sense the interests of the mission.

6298. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] You stated that you consider that an immigration of Africans would be a great misfortune to the island of Jamaica. Setting aside the moral mischief of which you spoke, as likely to result from it, will you explain what you consider would be the effect of it upon the means of subsistence of the Creoles?—While there is so much land uncultivated I should not fear any very deleterious result for a short time. My greatest fear is this, that on their arrival they would, in all probability, consider themselves deceived; that they would not commence to work, and idleness would produce crime; and instead of the planter being in a better position, he would find himself not in so good a one.

6299. That again refers rather to the moral effect, than to the effect it would have upon the minds of the present labourers in Jamaica. Can you state what you think would be the result upon the condition of the present labourers in Jamaica, not morally speaking, but physically?—I can scarcely answer that question.

6300. If the African population, upon their arrival in the colony, refuse to work and commit crimes, no doubt it may produce moral mischief; but how will it diminish the means of subsistence, or the means of obtaining the comforts of life among the present labouring population of Jamaica?—If those persons on being landed there, should not work, they must still live, and in all probability they will begin by stealing from the provision-grounds.

6301. Have you any reason for saying, from your experience, that the conduct of the African immigrants would be such, generally speaking, that they would none of them submit to work?—I do not say that some of them would not; I have never seen any African immigrants; I have merely heard of them through the public prints; I heard that they did expect a larger amount of wages than was offered to them. Whether they were deceived or not, whether a larger amount of wages had been offered to them at Sierra Leone than was afterwards offered them, I have no means of ascertaining.

6302. Would not they then leave the island?—They could not; they could not get back.

6303. You think they would be denied the means of return?—I have not seen the Emigration Act; I do not know whether they could return; I think some have returned.

6304. You were understood to state that one possible result of African immigration would be, that wages would not be lowered, but that the present labouring population would decline to work themselves?—I think that would be the first result. I think, eventually, it would lower wages.

6305. And when the provision-grounds, which would afford the present labouring population a means of standing out for wages against their masters, began to be exhausted, or they began to be tired of the contest, they would then return to labour?—They would either return or emigrate somewhere else.

6306. Put the case of their returning to labour, the result then would be, that by means of the introduction of the African immigrants, the wages throughout the country would be reduced?—It might have that effect; but I have reason to think that on those estates where they do get continuous labour,

it

it pays them at the present rate of wages; and I should think if they obtained continuous labour on other estates, it would pay them too.

6307. Does your experience enable you to tell the Committee whether the African immigrants, generally speaking, have refused to work?—I have no personal knowledge. I have heard so, and I have reason to think that they did refuse to work for the wages offered. Some were landed at Port Maria; and a brother missionary of mine, Mr. Day, told me that they refused to work, saying that they had been offered higher wages than they found were given them on arrival; and I think that was the case with some landed at Kingston.

6308. Were the wages offered to them upon their arrival in the colony the same rate of wages as those given to the labourers already in the colony?—I think the same; I do not think they offered them less.

6309. Supposing the consequence of the present rate of wages of the labouring population of Jamaica was to throw a great many estates out of cultivation, what effect do you conceive that would have upon the present labouring population?—In those districts it would have a bad effect.

6310. Looking solely to the interests of the population already labouring in Jamaica, would you prefer to see a considerable immigration of Africans to compete with them in wages, or an abandonment of a considerable portion of the estates in Jamaica?—I think that if those estates were abandoned and put up to sale, parties on the island would purchase them, and commence cultivation again.

6311. What parties?—I think that some of the overseers or attorneys would do so; I know one who wants to buy one very much.

6312. You think that estates, which it would not be worth the while of the present proprietors to cultivate, might be advantageously cultivated by the attorneys now employed by them?—I think that is the case with some estates; there are some that are heavily mortgaged.

6313. Then the expense that would throw those estates out of the hands of the proprietor, would be the expense of keeping the attorney?—No; there are some of them heavily mortgaged; some of them deeply in debt besides; were they thrown out of the cultivation of sugar, there are some that would grow other things besides sugar. I wish we could grow something to eat in Jamaica besides cocoas and yams; my impression is that wheat might be cultivated, and a great many other things, and I hope they will be when the resources of the island are developed. I think we must look to see if we cannot cultivate enough provisions for the population without going to America.

6314. You have said that you do not know much of the Immigration Act passed in Jamaica?—No, I do not. I know there is a new one, with alterations.

6315. Are you aware of the expense that would be incurred by it?—No, I am not exactly; I left Jamaica in a very hurried manner, and I did not bring a single law with me; I did not expect to be here many weeks; I left Jamaica in March; but if I understood it rightly from common report, white immigration was completely given up, and I hope it is so.

6316. What is your opinion of the propriety of laying on a tax for the purposes of immigration in Jamaica?—I think they are taxed heavily enough already.

6317. The Immigration Act, of course, cannot be carried on without expense?—No; I think the late immigration cost some 20,000 *l.* or 30,000 *l.*; I may be mistaken.

6318. Under the Immigration Act are persons appointed who receive salaries at the expense of the public?—There are.

6319. In your opinion, is that an improper use of public money?—I think so.

6320. You have stated in a letter, written in June 1840, to Lord John Russell, several objections that you entertained at the time to certain Acts that had been passed by the Assembly of Jamaica, and among others an Act which you have referred to in your examination in an early part of this day, the Hawkers' and Pedlers' Act. Are you aware that an Act has since been passed in consequence of a letter written by the then Secretary of State, Lord John Russell, to the Governor of Jamaica, altering that Act?—No, I am not aware of that.

6321. Your objection to the Hawking and Pedling Act is thus expressed: that it "prohibits persons selling articles of their own preparing and manufacture, such as water-jars, ropes, baskets, or produce, without a licence, the cost

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cost of which in some parishes is 10*l.*; and it is rendered necessary to take out this licence, not, as in England, for the whole country, but in each parish. By the operation of this Act, numbers of aged and infirm persons, for whom there is no adequate legal provision, are totally deprived of the means of obtaining a living, and the free small farmer is laid under great restrictions before he can bring his produce to market. There is a case within our own knowledge of a market-gardener on a small scale, whose grounds are in one parish, but his market in the next, consequently, before he can sell his produce, he must take out a licence in each parish, and this is a case of very frequent occurrence." This statement of yours produced a letter from the Secretary of State, commenting upon this Act, and sundry other Acts of the government; and, in consequence of that letter, as regards this Act, there was an Act passed in the island in November 1840, to repeal that Act, and in that second Act, regulating hawking and pedling, there is this provision in section 7: "And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that nothing contained in this Act shall extend to prohibit any person or persons from selling any bread, fresh fish, milk, fruit, vegetables, or provisions, or to limit the real worker or workers, maker or makers of any goods, wares, or manufactures of this island, or his, or her, or their children, apprentices, or known agents or servants, usually residing with such real workers or makers only, from carrying about, or exposing to sale and selling by retail, or otherwise, any of the said goods, wares, or manufactures of his, her, or their own making." Does that clause obviate the objection you have stated to the Hawking and Pedling Act?—I am under an impression that there is still an Act in Jamaica, and if I had the Acts I think I could refer to it, which does prohibit the sale of sugar under 100 lbs.

6322. *Chairman.*] Another Act, independently of this?—I think there is. I will not be sure, but my impression is, that there is an Act relating to sugar and coffee. But, as I stated before, I do not think there is any disposition to carry it out.

6323. You have been asked about abandoned estates; do you doubt the fact of several estates having been abandoned?—I do not know any one in the neighbourhood where I live.

6324. Is it not a notorious fact, that in Jamaica very many estates have been abandoned?—It is not. I have heard of one or two being abandoned in St. Thomas-in-the-East, but I know not whether it is true that they have; but in the whole district where I reside, I have not heard of one.

6325. You state that in your opinion the supply of labour is sufficient, and the rate of wages not more than fair; how do you account for the abandonment of estates?—There may be some circumstances to account for it; the estates may be bad; or they may be encumbered with debt.

6326. The estates are not worse than they were?—If estates are neglected, they get worse every year; they may be estates in a very unfavourable position.

6327. Do you know two estates named Windsor and South Field, in the parish of Trelawney?—I know South Field; that was abandoned as a sugar estate long before freedom came; it was turned into a pen.

6328. Do you know an estate named Windsor?—Windsor Estate is not abandoned; it has been purchased by Mr. Shasmit. The cultivation is better now than ever, since he has purchased it; it is close by the village I have mentioned. As to South Field, the attorney removed most of the people to Fontybell, and that was abandoned long before freedom came.

6329. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Was the gentleman that purchased that estate an attorney?—He was an attorney.

6330. Was he the attorney of the estate?—He was the attorney of Hyde Hall Estate; he is now selling part of his land; he has bought some new land. The estate is close to where I reside.

6331. Mr. *Godson.*] You have been asked respecting white people emigrating to Jamaica; cannot white people be ploughmen?—I think not.

6332. Cannot white people be cattlemen?—I should rather think not; I do not think they could stand in the low lands at all to do work.

6333. Cannot white people be coopers?—They might, but I am afraid their constitutions would suffer.

6334. Cannot white people be blacksmiths?—They might; I do not think they would thrive.

6335. What

6335. What number of years should you conceive to be a fair trial of the climate, upon persons occupying those positions, namely, ploughmen, cattlemen, coopers, and blacksmiths; in other words, in what time would you say they were acclimatised?—Five or six years.

6336. You think that if they lived five or six years, they would have a fair chance?—I should think so.

6337. Do you know the south of the island, Clarendon and Vere?—No, I do not; I have never been at Clarendon.

6338. In reputation, is that more or less healthy than the north of the island?—I should not think it is at all more healthy.

6339. Is not it less healthy?—In the savannas, I think it is.

6340. Take Clarendon?—The mountains of Clarendon are quite as healthy; I should think the savannas are not.

6341. Take Manchester, the sea-coast down to Carlisle Bay and Salt River, all of which is flat, is it not?—I believe it is, near the sea.

6342. You would think that rather a bad specimen of the island as to health?—I should.

6343. Then if you were informed that those offices have been filled by white people for six or seven years in that part of the island, would you not think that that was some evidence that they could fill those offices in Jamaica?—They might live, but if you put 20 white men to those offices, in any part of Jamaica, fulfilling them properly, my impression is, that in the course of 10 years most of them would be dead.

6344. Supposing a white man to have been head ploughman, to have been cattleman, to have been blacksmith, and to have been cooper, and to be alive at the end of six or seven years, in a part of Jamaica that is least favourable to health; if that be so, is not that a very good reason for saying that white people could fill those kind of offices?—It certainly would be a reason; if there are such cases I am very glad to hear of it.

6345. Still that would be nothing to prove that they could labour in the field in the ordinary way that negroes do?—Certainly not.

6346. Although they could fill those kind of offices, they could not cultivate the cane?—No.

6347. Is there not an estate in Jamaica worked entirely by white people, without any black people at all?—Not that I know of.

6348. Did you never hear of it?—No.

6349. Do you know Freeman's Hall, in St. Anne's?—It is on the borders of Trelawney.

6350. Is it not worked by white people?—I was never aware of that. From Freeman's Hall some of the most painful cases of white immigrants have come to me.

6351. When you speak of white immigrants, I presume you mean those that have been put to work at the cane, to make cane-holes, and to cut canes?—Yes; and to dig. Some of them have told me that they have had to dig ditches, and such things. I have never been at Freeman's Hall, but I always understood that Freeman's Hall was conducted entirely by free labour, but there were a great many black persons upon it. Freeman's Hall was established during apprenticeship, on the system of free labour, and my impression is that there are a great many black persons on it.

6352. You have stated that 1*s.* 6*d.* a day would be fair reasonable wages; do you take at all into consideration the price of sugar in England when you say that 1*s.* 6*d.* is a fair amount of wages; in other words, when you say that 1*s.* 6*d.* would be fair and just wages for the negro to receive, at what average do you put sugar in England in coming to that result?—I do not know what sugar is selling at now in England.

6353. Does not it strike your mind that as labour is the principal thing upon a sugar estate, the amount of wages that the planter would be able to pay would depend upon the price he got for the sugar?—Certainly; and if sugar falls, wages will fall with it. But my impression is that a great saving might be made in other matters before a reduction in the wages of labour became necessary; I have told the people that a fixed state of wages never could obtain; it must fluctuate, like other things.

6354. Must it not fluctuate according to the price of sugar which the planter obtains in England?—I suppose it must.

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6355. Have you ever considered what would be a fair average price of sugar in England to afford a remuneration to the planter?—No; I cannot say that I have.

6356. You speak about economy upon an estate; have you ever considered what proportion the wages bore to the whole expenses of the estate; assuming, by way of example, that the expenses of the estate were 3,000 *l.*, have you ever calculated how much of that 3,000*l.* would be paid in wages to the negroes?—I made a calculation with Mr. Shasmit and two or three others, some years ago.

6357. Since freedom?—It was just as freedom was coming. There was a statement made by some planters and gentlemen conducting estates, but I cannot call it to mind now.

6358. But supposing the expenses of a sugar estate to be 3,000*l.*, would not the negroes take 2,000*l.* of it in wages?—I cannot say without making a calculation.

6359. Assuming that an estate is economically managed in other respects, you think that nine hours a day is a sufficient time for the negro to work upon the estate?—My impression is, that if he did task-work, he would do a great deal more than nine hours.

6360. Allowing the intervals for rest, would that be a sufficient quantity of labour to make it remunerating to the planter to pay 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for?—I think so. The impression I have derived from the planters is, that if a negro does a fair day's work in nine hours, he can earn 1*s.* 6*d.* in the nine hours.

6361. Then what do you mean by saying that the 38,000*l.* which you mentioned they had paid for land was obtained by the negroes, some of it during slavery, and some during apprenticeship, because the planter required more than the nine hours, and therefore he paid money for it?—I understood the last question to refer to out of crop.

6362. You stated before, that the negroes got the large amount of money you mentioned, in consequence of the planters paying them sums of money, because they wanted more than nine hours' labour?—In crop time.

6363. For what number of hours does the planter ordinarily want to continue his labour in crop?—I have always considered that they want 12 or 13 hours.

6364. And must not they obtain 12 or 13 hours, no matter what they pay for it, or else the sugar is spoiled?—They must in crop time; that is my decided impression.

6365. In the very critical process of making sugar, in order to produce a profitable result, the labour must be continued for a number of hours?—I think so.

6366. The result of that is, that the planter, in order to get that labour, must give those wages, whether he can afford it or not, in order to make his sugar?—I think the great difficulty the planters have had to contend with has been in crop time. I hoped that by the employment of machinery they would be able to reduce the amount of labour.

6367. Can you suggest any possible improvement in machinery that is not already in existence in Jamaica?—I cannot.

6368. Can you suggest any effect to which machinery can be applied to which it is not applied?—On some estates they have got tram-roads, and in some cases they have steam-engines.

6369. Supposing an estate with a steam-engine and a cane-carrier; supposing it never to use the hoe, but always the plough; supposing it to use horse-hoes for weeding; and supposing it to take the mechanical means of turning the trash which here are used for meadows, for turning over the hay; supposing all that to be in use at the present moment; is there any other purpose for which machinery could be substituted?—I am not aware that there is, but I am not a practical planter. Most of my information about planting has been derived from planters themselves when I have been upon the estates.

6370. Do you know any work at present performed by the negro in any manner whatever for which machinery could be used that is not at present used in the island?—I am scarcely able to say; I have only heard of two or three estates (there may be many more) where they have railroads for carrying away the green trash. My information about the green trash is derived from Mr. George Gordon.

6371. Drawing your attention to the fact that the produce in Jamaica is now just

just one-half what it was in 1835, will you state whether from your experience that does not arise greatly from the want of continuous labour?—I have never found any want of continuous labour; it may be in some of the parishes, but I think it arises in a great measure from the drought, and from the vexatious things to which I have referred, and which are now happily gone by.

6372. Suppose it to have occurred upon an estate on which there were never any ejectments nor any summonses for rent at all; in that case if the quantity fell off one-half, would not that be from a want of continuous labour?—Unless there was a drought.

6373. There was a drought in the year 1840, but was there any particular drought in the year 1841?—I have been given to understand that the drought in 1840 materially affected the 1841 crops; so planters have told me.

6374. What do you mean by the words "want of continuous labour;" when you say there is not a want of continuous labour, do you mean that a man will begin in the morning and work during the day; does he not go sometimes before breakfast and then not come after breakfast, and at another time go between breakfast and dinner, and then not come in the afternoon, according to his own pleasure?—I have not found it so.

6375. Is it not so?—I have found that he worked much better with task-work, when he considered that he had a certain amount of work to do in the day.

6376. Do not the negroes, some of them, work before breakfast, for instance, and then work no more that day, and another set work from breakfast to dinner, and do no more work that day, and so on, giving portions of days?—It may be so in other places, I have not found it so.

6377. Have you not found that they have worked on Monday, and have not worked on the Tuesday, without any notice that they will not come on Tuesday?—There may be isolated cases of that kind, but not at all as a general fact.

6378. Assuming, however, that to be so, has the planter any means whatever of forcing the negro to work for a whole week through, the enforcement of which would not be a greater detriment than permitting him to go away?—I do not think he has any means of coercing labour.

6379. You have said that there was 5,000 *l.* sterling profit upon an estate which you mentioned; do you mean that for the year 1841?—I think it was 1841; I am not certain; I had it from Mr. Abbott; it was with respect to Drax Hall estate; the proprietor told him so, and he told me so.

6380. Did he tell you upon what number of hogsheads of sugar that profit was made?—No; he merely said that the proprietor had said that he cleared 5,000 *l.* last year, and expected to clear 7,000 *l.* this.

6381. You have been asked with respect to the effect of introducing immigrants; are you aware that there are at least a million of acres of land in Jamaica that are not yet under cultivation?—Yes.

6382. The introduction of 50,000 Africans, if they were merely put upon that million of acres, would that be any detriment to the negroes at present in the island?—I should be very much afraid of 50,000 being placed there; but I had no thought that it was the intention of the immigration to locate them on the waste lands.

6383. You are aware that a considerable portion of the estates have never been brought into cultivation; then would not the having a quantity of negroes brought in enable them to bring some of that better land into cultivation?—It might.

6384. Would that do any harm to the present negroes?—I do not know that it would; I suppose it is merely put as a supposititious one.

6385. Would the introduction of them, in that event, do any harm to the present negroes?—I should think not.

6386. If the present negroes, with their superfluities, were themselves to become freeholders, why should not the imported Africans go into their places upon the estates?—I do not see anything to hinder them if the others should leave, if you have them there. But I hope the others will not leave.

6387. Having themselves purchased lands upon which they can live, is not the tendency of the negro to become not only a person of property, but gradually to raise himself in station so as to become a book-keeper, overseer, and so on?—That will be the case with a few, not with many.

6388. Is it not so at the present moment as to a few?—It is as to a few.

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6389. As they improve in moral culture and education, will not the tendency of thepresent Creole be to raise himself, and thus to remove himself from mere manual labour?—Yes; but I think his place will be supplied by the increase of population.

6390. But assuming that the increase of population would be insufficient, then the incoming of African immigration taking their places upon the estates, could in no way possibly do any harm to the negro?—No, if they have left the estates.

6391. Is not the tendency in the present state of society for him thus to withdraw from manual labour, and then that the African negro who has not the same comforts and superfluities should supply his place?—It is the tendency, but I think the increase of population will supply a check to that.

6392. Presuming you to be incorrect in that, is not the tendency of the negro, from the money that he has raised, and from the education which he is receiving, and from the means he has of becoming a landholder himself, to leave off mere manual labour for other people?—Yes, I should say the tendency was likely to be so.

6393. Then would not the vacuum thus made be profitably, and without any harm to the negro, filled up by the incoming of African immigration?—I think their place would be much better supplied by the children of those parties. I have great fears of African immigration myself.

6394. The children of the present negroes having the opportunities and advantages that have been before described; namely, the money of the parents, the freehold of the parents, and education and moral instruction; do the children of those negroes now go into the cane-fields for the purpose of assisting in the cane cultivation?—They do very much with us during crop time; we generally request them to leave the school for that purpose, during crop time, those that are at school.

6395. Are the Committee to understand that you mean to represent that the children of the present negroes do go into the field for the purpose of cultivating the cane?—Certainly.

6396. What labour do the children of 14 or 15 years of age perform?—They go to work in the field.

6397. Do you mean to represent to the Committee that the children of the emancipated negroes go at 16 or 17, or 18 years of age, into the cane-field, and assist in the cultivation?—Most certainly.

6398. Do they do that willingly, as their parents do?—Yes.

6399. So that the estates would have now the same quantity of children in the different gangs, the first gang, the second gang, and the third gang, as they used to have?—Not of young children.

6400. At what age would you put it?—I think they generally leave school at the age of 12 or 13, and then they go to work.

6401. Do they go to work in the cane-fields?—Yes; I have generally at crop time requested the younger ones to leave the school for a little time.

6402. As to the provision-grounds, you said they were 16 miles off; who can watch the provision-grounds if they are 16 miles off?—There are some grounds in Trelawney 16 miles off; it is not a common occurrence.

6403. Who would watch them to keep them from depredations?—In some of the estates in Trelawney the whole of them unite to employ a watchman, and pay him so much a week to watch for them; it is an agreement among themselves.

6404. You have stated that wherever money could be found for wages, there was labour to be had. Do you mean to represent that that is general over the island?—That is my impression.

6405. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Do you consider that the importation of 50,000 African immigrants would create any jealousy on the part of the negro population?—I think it would.

6406. With that opinion, what did you mean when you said that "blacks will mingle with blacks"?—I think that jealousy would soon fade away; I think they would try to use their influence to get them not to work for lower wages.

6407. Mr. *Hawes.*] By the word "jealousy," do you mean not exactly a jealousy of the labourers imported as rivals in the market of labour, but a feeling

ing of ill-will and discontent at numbers being imported with a view to reduce the wages of labour?—Yes, that is what I mean.

6408. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You have said that Sunday is much more regarded in Jamaica than in England; in what way?—We have scarcely a shop open there through the length and breadth of the island; there is nothing strikes a missionary more painfully in coming home than the non-observance of the Lord's-day here in large cities; there is a most marked observance of the Lord's-day in Jamaica.

6409. Do you think that the people of Jamaica are a more moral and religious people than the people of this country?—I think the labouring population possibly are more so than the labouring population here. It has been computed by Mr. Candler, who has made a tour in Jamaica, that two out of every three attend some place of worship.

6410. Is a regard for marriage and the social virtues more prevalent in Jamaica than in England?—England has been very long under the moral influence of marriage, whereas a few years ago Jamaica was in a state of licentiousness; but the outward observance of the Sabbath is much greater in Jamaica than it is in England.

6411. You said that the extension of small freeholds would tend to benefit the condition of the negroes; would it not therefore tend to diminish the number of those that might be willing to work?—It has not had that effect, and I hope it will not; I do not see why a man should not work as well if he had his own cottage, as if he hired his cottage.

6412. You said there had been 8,000 recorded freehold?—I believe Sir Charles Metcalfe has stated that.

6413. And there will probably be a great many more registered this year; do you think that will have a visible effect upon the next elections?—If the question was tried, I think it might have; the black freeholders could, I dare say, make a difference in the return, though they are not at all political people yet.

6414. Do you think at an early period we may anticipate that we shall have blacks elected into the House of Assembly?—I should think so; we have coloured men now; I should be very glad to see a few there if they were fit to go.

6415. Mr. *Godson.*] You made use of the expression, that in some cases the planters cannot pay for what work they can get; why cannot they pay for what work they can get?—I referred to the estates that were mortgaged.

6416. Seeing that in a population of 150,000 men, women, and children, you have had already 8,000 recorded freeholders, is not the tendency of that to take the negro population out of the labour market?—I do not think it is; I think they will still labour on the estates; that is my impression.

6417. Mr. *Hawes.*] You are understood not to object to immigration upon principle?—No.

6418. You do not object to a fair and reasonable importation of labourers by individual proprietors to improve their estates, but to a general and wholesale immigration to operate upon the market of labour?—Yes, that is so.

6419. Supposing the cost of that immigration to be thrown upon the British public, do you conceive that it would be just to tax the people of England to improve the sugar estates of Jamaica?—No.

6420. You have been asked some questions as to the moral and physical effect that might be produced upon the African labourers, if imported in any great numbers, and you were understood to state, that you apprehend that there might be a period between their arrival and their employment in which they might be in a state of idleness, and that during that time there would be an injurious effect, not only upon the labouring population generally, but an effect injurious to themselves?—I think so.

6421. And that it would lead to crime, and perhaps immorality?—Yes.

6422. And that that would be very detrimental to the existing population?—Yes.

6423. It would tend to injure the existing habits of industry?—I am afraid it would.

6424. Are you rightly understood to say, that in your opinion, if fair wages, at the rate of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, are now paid to the existing labouring population, there would be no want of imported labourers to continue an equal production

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of sugar to that which has taken place in recent years, putting aside all effect of the seasons?—I think that will be the result.

6425. And, therefore, in your opinion, it is not necessary for the sugar estates to import labourers, but only that they should improve their system, and pay regular wages, in order to increase the produce of sugar?—That is my impression.

6426. You have been asked, with respect to a statement in some official paper, as to some land in the possession of negroes having produced them 20*l.* or 30*l.* an acre per annum; supposing any property at any time in Jamaica to have produced 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* an acre, would it not have been more profitably let to labourers as tenants than employed in the production of sugar under the present system?—I should think so, most decidedly.

6427. With regard to the enjoyment of luxuries and superfluities amongst the labouring population, is that the case generally, or is not this the state of things, that the superior class of skilled labourers and handicraftsmen have these superfluities, and not the labouring population generally?—They do not generally have wine or four-post bedsteads, but the purchase of a horse or an ass is very common amongst them.

6428. But that is with a view to facilitate their cultivation, and the sale of their produce?—It is a source of wealth to them; but the four-post bedsteads are by no means very common; the great desire of all missionaries is, I believe, to improve their social habits as much as we possibly can. In the time of slavery they herded too much together. My efforts are to improve as much as possible their social habits; for all the work is to be done yet almost; there are some bright specimens here and there springing up, but a great deal of work is to be done in Jamaica.

6429. With regard to the separation of rent from wages, would not that prevent many disputes that have arisen between master and labourer?—Yes; and it is separated now very generally.

6430. The payment of rent for the occupation of ground, and the payment of wages for labour, would not only prevent disputes between master and servant; but, by preventing those disputes, tend to produce an improved state of relations, and consequently more continuous labour?—I think so.

6431. And therefore you attach much importance to it, not merely in an economical point of view, but generally, as improving the relation between master and labourer?—Yes.

6432. You have stated that you were not aware that many estates in Jamaica have been abandoned?—I am not aware of it.

6433. Are you accustomed to see the public journals in the island?—I do not see much of them, for they are generally so filled with abuse that I have given over reading them.

6434. Would you have been likely to have heard, in your intercourse with persons in Jamaica, if many estates had been abandoned?—Yes. I know of none in the locality in which I reside that have been abandoned for want of labour.

6435. You have stated that you are not able to suggest any additional application of machinery; but, with regard to the economical management of estates, you think it is capable of being carried further, by introducing improved farming and rotation of crops?—I think so.

6436. In your opinion, has not that been too much neglected in Jamaica; the introducing fresh products and rotation of crops, &c.?—I think so.

6437. Are there not many periods of the year in which the negroes cannot work on the estates, from the state of the weather?—In some parts of the island I think that is more the case than in others.

6438. At those times are they able to work on their own provision-grounds; and do they, in point of fact?—If the state of the weather prevents their working upon the estate, it would prevent their working upon the grounds, and then they work inside their cottages in making baskets.

9439. They would turn the time to account for their own benefit?—Yes; they make baskets and brooms, and many little things of that kind.

6440. With regard to taxation, you have said that at present it does not fall very heavily upon the labouring class; one part of the revenue is raised from duties on imports, and that falls chiefly upon articles of consumption; to that extent it falls upon them as part of the general consuming class?—My impres-

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sion is, that the whole of the taxation eventually falls upon the consumer of the thing taxed.

6441. If there was a considerable importation of immigrants, would it not be probable they might resort to squatting on the waste lands?—I think it is very likely.

6442. As furnishing an easy mode of life, and in some degree a profitable one, by raising vegetables for the market?—I think it is very likely they would if they were allowed, but I suppose there would be laws to prevent their doing it.

6443. *Chairman.*] Are there not laws to restrict the practice of squatting?—Yes.

6444. Are those laws adequate for the purpose?—They are adequate for the purpose now; whether they would be in the case of such an increase of population I cannot say.

Veneris, 1° die Julii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Sir Charles Douglas.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Ralph Bernal, Esq. a Member of The House; Examined.

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6445. *Chairman.*] YOU are possessed of considerable property in Jamaica?—I am possessed of property in Jamaica in two parishes.

6446. Will you be so good as to inform the Committee what changes you have found produced in the value and circumstances of your property of late years?—With reference to the changes in the productive returns of the property (which is the point upon which I am more competent to speak than any other), for other purposes, I have been going through very carefully, as far as I could, an investigation of the productive returns of my properties for the three years commencing in April 1839 and ending in April of this year. The parishes in which my properties are situated in Jamaica are St. Dorothy and St. Anne; they are sugar properties, and there are also appendages to those properties, consisting of provision lands, and perhaps part of those provision lands on the South side in St. Dorothy may extend into St. John's; but that is immaterial. I have also in St. Anne a property, being a pen, called Edinburgh Castle.

6447. In what county are they?—In Middlesex. Beginning from the month of April 1839, and extending to the month of April 1842, I have carefully looked over the amount of receipts during the time, and, on the other hand, I have as carefully as possible looked over the amount of disbursements; the receipts being the receipts for the return of produce received from the properties, and the debits on the other side being the amount of disbursements laid out and incurred upon and about those properties, I find that instead of receiving any income from those estates during that period of three years, I have actually lost upon those properties more than 3,000*l.* during those three years; I have not only derived no income, but I have been obliged, from other sources, to expend more than 3,000 *l.* in and about those properties. I should also remark that my estates are perfectly free from mortgage, debt, or any incumbrance whatever; I have no charge of interest on the other hand. With respect to my mercantile agency in this country, I believe that my concerns in this country have been and are as economically arranged and managed as possible. I am under no obligation to any mercantile house or individual whatever, and therefore to a certain extent I am free from the charge of incurring any responsibilities, or any extra expense which people who are subject to mortgage incumbrances may be reckoned liable to. If the Committee do not think it irrelevant, I will state that when I first heard that this Committee was to be appointed, I thought it my duty to write to my manager in Jamaica, begging him to send me back, as early as he could, a clear statement as accurate and true as possible of the system of cultivation and the inconveniences which we have to complain of in

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Jamaica with reference to my property, and I begged of him that it might be free from all exaggeration, not to give it any colouring, and to say nothing which could not be strictly vouched for, and strictly and accurately proved. I received in consequence of that intimation of my wishes an answer, which, if the Committee do not think it improper, I will take the liberty of reading to them. The answer is dated from St. Dorothy, and the letter applies merely to my St Dorothy property, Cherry Garden, which is situated on the South side of the island; the answer is dated the 10th of May, and it is as follows:—"In reply to your favour of the 15th of March respecting the present state of cultivation, I shall do so briefly, and without the fear of contradiction. Cultivation generally is very backward, and in some parts of the island is in a deplorable and ruinous state, produced from the want of a sufficient number of labourers, the great difficulty of procuring continuous labour in favourable seasons and in crop, the high rate of wages demanded, the inadequate return of labour given, and from the short time they work, which is about eight or nine hours per day, or equal to 32 hours in one week." Then he proceeds to give the matter of detail: "In crop time we have to employ 28 hands about the works in the manufacture of sugar and rum, about 2 *s.* each per day with eight tradesmen at the same rate, 40 hands in the field, including cane-cutters, wain-men, loaders and teens, four hands getting food for stock, three stock-minders and two wood-cutters, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* each per day." (With respect to those sums I should mention that now we calculate entirely in sterling money in Jamaica.) "Making 85 persons required for a 200 hogshead estate, not including watchmen and domestics, who are employed by the week. Sometimes we cannot get out a sufficient number to keep the mill about, for the labourers will only go to work when it suits their fancy or convenience, and they will on no account come out in wet weather; and it frequently occurs that they will allow the tops, or cane plants to spoil rather than turn out to plant them when the ground is well saturated and in a proper state for it, consequently the seasons are often lost to us, thereby entailing additional expense in establishing the plants by having to open the land again; and we frequently have to supply the pieces five or six times over, besides extra hoeing and cleaning. It is my opinion that unless we get an adequate supply of agricultural labourers into the island soon, sugar cultivation must in a great measure cease, as every day shows that the present labourers are getting so independent from the high rate of wages demanded, and having so many resources within themselves, that they are regardless of field labour, and which they are beginning to despise and consider as degrading. There is one circumstance which deserves attention: almost all the young children under 15 years of age have been withdrawn from agricultural pursuits, and are now either located in the towns, at schools, or employed by their parents and relations as servants, or sent higgling about the country, &c. &c.; so that in the course of time when the old generation dies off, there will be no field labourers to supply their place. The children formerly used to keep clean and weed the young canes, and were best adapted for that purpose; now we are obliged to employ a gang of adults during the crop to do that work. There are about 250 people located on this estate, still I am compelled to look out for strangers to come and work, or I should not be able to carry on cultivation. At present some of our canes are suffering from not being cut, as the labourers will only work four days in one week. It costs us 4 *l.* 12 *s.* to manufacture a hogshead of sugar alone, not including the expense of preparing the land, planting the cane, rearing, cleaning, and cultivating until ripe, or carriage to wharf, &c. The rent question has been a great bone of contention, and has given rise to much squabbling and discontent, from the want of an uniform system being observed or adopted by many of the proprietors and attorneys, some giving up the rent, and others insisting on its being paid. We only exact 1 *s.* per week for house and garden. The gardens are very extensive, and supply them with all kinds of vegetables and provisions. I have endeavoured to reply to your letter as concisely as possible, and will vouch for the correctness of my remarks." I beg leave to add, that the gentleman who writes to me, is named Francis M'Cook, he is well known in that part of the island, and was formerly well known in the North of the island; he is a member of the House of Assembly for the parish of St. Dorothy; he has been many years in my employ, and he was in my father's employ before me. I have always had reason to regard Mr. M'Cook, not only as a man of integrity, but

but as a man of practical experience and a man of ability; he is certainly not a man of great property, or a man who may be considered as a leviathan of an attorney. It was my father's object, and has always been my object, to give the management of my properties to persons who resided upon the property, not to any large overpowering attorney. It has always been my wish to control the management of my property, as it was the wish of those that went before me. I can also vouch for this, that I begged of him when I wrote to him, to avoid anything that had a tendency to colouring or exaggeration in any statement that he made to me.

6448. Have you yourself been in Jamaica?—I have not been there.

6449. Are you able to make any statement from your own knowledge of the detail of the management of your estates?—I know a great deal about the general management, having from my earliest childhood heard so much about it, and having corresponded from very early years; I know almost every thing that goes on, but I am going to give evidence upon that part of the case, which comes entirely within my own knowledge, as to the result of the accounts. With respect to my North-side property, a property called Richmond, situated in St. Anne's, upon the sea-side, the amount of my last year's Jamaica expenses, was full 2,700 *l.*, that does not include the amount of supplies sent from this country. The amount of supplies sent from this country in ordinary years varies. The common supplies may be somewhere about from 240*l.* to 300*l.*; of course, if there is any extra machinery, or any extra demand, it would exceed that. Of this sum of 2,700 *l.* and upwards, the amount charged to me for the labour of the estate, not the salaries, but the labour, is 1,744 *l.* odd. With respect to the amount of the salaries, the salary of the overseer upon that property, his money salary, is about 120 *l.* a year; the salaries of three or four white people upon the property, vary I suppose from about 36 *l.* sterling to about 48 *l.* or 50 *l.* sterling. Now, the return of this property last year, was 106 hogsheads of sugar only, and about 48 puncheons of rum; those 106 hogsheads of sugar sold at prices from 57*s.* and 58*s.* to 61*s.*, about an average of 59*s.* a cwt. as near as I can calculate, deducting freight and other expenses that would bring about 20*l.* sterling a hogshead; 20 times 106 would give a little more than 2,000*l.* Then there are 48 puncheons of rum. I do not know what to reckon them at exactly; perhaps it would be about 16*l.* to 17*l.* a puncheon; that would be about 800*l.*, and the whole amount of the produce would hardly pay the 2,700 *l.*, which is the amount of this account, and the 240*l.* to 300 *l.* for supplies sent out from this country.

6450. Upon the whole, does it show a loss upon that estate for that year?—It would show a loss; but the bulk of my whole loss was on the account of my other property, Cherry Garden, in St. Dorothy, which only sent me last year about four hogsheads of sugar; Richmond Estate has often sent from 250 to 300 hogsheads of sugar.

6451. Will you inform the Committee how that loss of 3,000*l.* was spread over the three years?—It has been occasioned by insufficient returns; but the last year that estate in St. Dorothy, I think, only sent me four hogsheads of sugar; it certainly did not produce in the whole more than ten at the outside. In consequence of that, and in consequence of the heavy annual charges and disbursements both upon my South-side and upon my North-side property, the result is very natural; there is nothing to receive, and a great deal to pay. The bulk of the loss upon those three years arises principally in the two latter of the three years; in fact, last year was a very heavy year indeed to me. I see that in three years the amount of disbursements was 19,318*l.* odd shillings, and the amount of my receipts was 16,184*l.* 8*s.*, which leaves about 3,000*l.* loss. I have gone over it very accurately, and I again take occasion to remark, that there is not the slightest charge in the whole of this account for interest, because no interest can arise, there being no mortgage debt.

6452. Do you include interest on the capital?—Certainly not; interest does not enter into it at all; it is a mere plain debtor and creditor account.

6453. Then it has been a progressively increasing loss for the three years?—Yes.

6454. Was there any serious amount of loss in the first year, 1839?—It appears that there was not so much loss in 1839; taking it from the figures here, there appears to have been a gain of about 1,100*l.*

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6455. The loss is upon the two last years?—Yes.

6456. From the information that you have received from Jamaica, do you apprehend that there will be any loss upon the current year?—We are in hopes, from the letters, that the seasons have been better in this year. We have had bad seasons before on the South side certainly. This year the seasons have hitherto been represented to have been good and prosperous, both in the North and in the South, but as yet I cannot tell what will be the result; we never can tell till after the 31st of December; our accounts are made out to the 31st of December in each year, and I do not receive them till the spring of the following year. The general nature of Jamaica concerns is this, that bills are drawn from time to time upon the current account of the expenses.

6457. Did you find that the profits of your estates were diminished during the period of apprenticeship, as compared with what you received during slavery?—I should say, certainly.

6458. Would it be a fair question to ask, as you have stated the loss of the two last years, what the profits of those estates were in prosperous times?—I wish I could state it; all I can say is, that those estates maintained me and my family well, and they maintained those that came before me well; that is all I can answer at this moment, because I should wish to answer most correctly. It would take me some time hunting out papers in boxes, &c. to get an accurate account.

6459. The receipts were large?—They were large at one time; at other times they varied. Sometimes they were depressed. I never have had any mortgage or incumbrance upon them whatever; I should mention also that the situation of my properties, and particularly of my Richmond Estate, is favourable. On Richmond, which is close to the sea, I had no extra expense for wainage; I have my own barquadier.

6460. Viscount *Chelsea*.] Have you an uniform system of management upon your estates?—Upon my South-side property, where there is no power of water, we have had a steam-engine a considerable time; and also upon the South-side property, several years ago, a small distance of tram-rails were sent out by me, and what we call mule carts, with a particular sort of wheels for carrying the trash, to do away with the labour, which was oppressive, and which lost a great deal of time, and consumed a great deal of energy in so carrying the trash backwards and forwards. I should also observe, that the plough has been in use upon the South-side for some time, and also upon the North side. I sent out a ploughman from Scotland to superintend; I was told afterwards, that they had no occasion for a ploughman to be sent out, that they had people who could plough well without the man that I sent out from Aberdeenshire.

6461. Do you give the same rate of wages upon both your properties?—The agricultural rate of wages upon the South side, is 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per diem. In a letter which I had a few months back, Mr. M'Cook complained that at the time he was procuring some additional hands, the people came and said they could not work for 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, but they must have 2 *s.* for the day of nine hours, which he refused to give, and he said that in consequence he should abstain from employing them for some days. He has not stated what alteration took place, but I am inclined to think from his letter that they came into the terms of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day. On the North side, I am without information upon that point at this moment. I do not know what rate of wages I am giving now in St. Anne's. From the North-side property, called Richmond, I observe that in the credits, there is no credit made for rent, from which I should conceive that there is no rent paid there. On the South side, it is stated in this letter, that they only exact 1 *s.* per week for each house and garden.

6462. Do you find that there is any additional facility in procuring labourers upon the estates where no rent is exacted?—I cannot say whether there is or is not, but I conceive that there is greater facility for procuring labour upon my North-side property than there is at Cherry Garden. I think there is more trouble given to the manager upon the South side than upon the North side.

6463. You said that there was a difference in regard to your different estates; that upon some little or no loss had been incurred, and upon others a great loss; can you attribute that difference in any measure to the fact of rent being in the one case exacted from the labourer, and in the other not?—No; I should attribute it to mixed causes. On the South side we have had very distressing dry weather indeed; and I should ascribe it to that, coupled with the

difficulty of enforcing continuous labour on the part of the peasantry at a time when labour was wanted. For the system of Jamaica planting differs a good deal from that of farming in this country. It is a more tiresome system, and one demanding more continuous care and attention. Whenever the cane suffers under inclement seasons, or dry seasons, you have the same operation to go over and over again, in replanting and cutting, and you want labour when you are not able to procure that labour, when you have to contend against adverse seasons.

6464. *Chairman.*] Have those complaints of want of labour reached you for a long time?—Yes, a long time, particularly on the South side.

6465. Have you heard the same complaints throughout the last three years?—I have.

6466. Is it your opinion, from the information you have received from Jamaica, that the want of more continuous labour is the chief cause of the difficulties which you have described?—I should consider it one, certainly; and a very principal cause. With reference to the question just put to me, I have a former letter, of the 14th of April from Mr. M'Cook, in answer to this query, which I put to him: Would it not be a politic thing, if we could get the minds of the labourers to bear upon this point, that they should, when competent, have some share or interest in the produce of the soil; something like the plan that in old times prevailed in some countries, and something like the plan that prevails to this day in South Sea adventures, to give the negroes an interest in the profits, and to pay them for the proportion of product of the soil returned by their labour? He answers me upon this subject in this remarkable sentence: "The negroes of this country are too independent to wait for remuneration of their labour by any interest in the proceeds of the soil, and their minds are by no means yet settled down. So long as they have the waste lands to cultivate, they will only work for the estates when they please; and to adopt summary means to rout them out where they are squatting, and even located on the estate, would be dangerous." That is his answer to my query.

6467. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Is the charge of 1 *s.* a week for huts and gardens the amount paid by each labourer, or by each family?—I cannot answer that question accurately within my own knowledge, as I have not got my Cherry Garden accounts in detail, but I should conceive that he means by the whole family. He says, "We exact only 1 *s.* a week for house and garden."

6468. Has your estate, during the last three years, been subject to any extraordinary expenses?—The South side has been subject to a long drought, or else it could never have been so utterly unproductive as to have only a return of 10 hogsheads last year. Our cattle suffered, the pastures suffered, and the cane fields suffered, and every part of the property suffered.

6469. Do the negroes place confidence in the decisions of the magistrates?—I have had no particular complaints lately; formerly there used to be complaints upon the North side about ejectments, and so on, and there were proceedings before the magistrates, and I was written to upon it, but of late I have heard nothing of the kind; latterly there has been no indication of the sort. I should mention, with reference to the statement of the expenses (which I think, to a certain extent, from the nature of the evidence that has been given, may not be immaterial,) that I allow Mr. M'Cook, as my general manager, a certain salary, and he resides on or near to one of my properties, superintending it personally, and he is the general manager for all my property, receiving a certain salary from me; and those white people upon the property are all under him, receiving the salaries I have mentioned already. I mention this to show that there is no very heavy expense forming an item in those accounts, which can be charged to the account of salaries or commissions to attorneys and overseers. I have no objection to state exactly the amount that I pay for salaries. I pay 300 *l.* a year sterling to my general manager.

6470. Mr. *Barclay.*] Can you state what was the produce of Cherry Garden in 1839?—I have not got it here.

6471. Nor in 1840?—I cannot state that.

6472. The greater part of the loss you have sustained during the last two years has arisen from the drought?—In the last year and a half, or the last two years, we had very dry weather indeed; and that must be coupled with the fact, that a difficulty is complained of very often in the time of dry weather in

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getting labour to attempt a remedy against the inclemency and contrariety of the seasons. It is at the time of that bad weather that we have a demand for labour to carry on the necessary supplements to the cultivation.

6473. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Can you state the smallest amount of income that the estates ever brought you during the period of slavery, so as to show how far the badness of the seasons, independent of the question of labour, might affect the result?—I can only answer that question generally; it certainly varied amazingly; the returns from those different properties would also vary, in consequence of the variation in the price of colonial produce in the markets here. There were some very bad years, undoubtedly, at different times, but I have never known any collection of years to equal the little collection of years that I have now given evidence upon, in which I find myself for three years totally without income, and every day incurring disbursements on account of the property.

6474. Viscount *Howick.*] Have you ever attempted to let the property to the negroes themselves?—I have never had applications from the negroes themselves for a lease of the property. I have had an application from a solicitor in this country, a kind of fishing application, to know if I would let my North-side property upon lease, not to negroes, to some individuals. I returned an answer in the negative, decidedly.

6475. Has it never occurred to you that the difficulty about getting labour from the negroes might possibly be obviated by letting the land in considerable parcels to negroes at a fair rent, and then manufacturing for them any produce they might grow?—No, it never occurred to me; it never has been put to me in a shape in which I could treat it as a probable thing. A sugar property is not like a property in England or Scotland or Ireland; it is an important property, which demands the use and employment of machinery to some extent, and capital to some extent; and I do not quite see as yet how the people could cultivate sugar in small patches; coffee they might, and pimento, and other inferior products, but how they could cultivate sugar, and produce sugar and sum from patches of land, I do not see. It might be possible in the future improvement of things, but at present I do not see the possibility of that plan.

6476. Might it not be practicable in this manner, if the negroes paid rent for the land, and you undertook to purchase from them whatever canes they might produce, leaving them to turn the land, if they could, to any better account?—Perhaps there are gentlemen who can speak, from being practical planters, more to that point. At present my impression is, that it would be attended with considerable difficulty; I confine that answer entirely to the staple commodity of sugar, and the ancillary commodity of rum. With respect to the minor productions, coffee, and pimento, and those things, it perhaps might be applicable, but as to sugar, I do not think it would; but there are gentlemen who are more competent than I am, from long experience in Jamaica farming, to speak to that point.

Captain Philip Browne, R. N. called in; and Examined.

Capt. *P. Browne*, R.N.

6477. Sir *Charles Douglas.*] ARE you a proprietor of an estate in Jamaica?—Not at this moment.

6478. You were a proprietor?—I was.

6479. How long were you in Jamaica?—Nearly nine years.

6480. In what capacity did you go out?—As the proprietor of the property, to look after the interests of the property.

6481. Where is that property situated?—In St. Thomas-in-the-East; it is called the Morant Estate.

6482. Was it a sugar or a coffee estate?—Sugar.

6483. What is the extent of it?—Between 1,500 and 1,600 acres.

6484. What extent of it is in cultivation?—When I went out there were 280 acres in cane field for sugar.

6485. That was during the time of slavery?—It was; I arrived in Jamaica in January 1831.

6486. How much was in cultivation during the apprenticeship?—It is gradually reduced every year; when I left it there were 175 acres to cut for canes.

6487. Has

6487. Has that estate been long in the possession of the present proprietors?—It was in the possession of my family, I believe, 140 years.

6488. What was its average produce during slavery?—I have not the whole accounts, but I have a number of years. In 1818, 187 hogsheads, two tierces, and 119 puncheons of rum; in 1820, 244 hogsheads, and 112 puncheons of rum; in 1821, 250 hogsheads, and 118 puncheons of rum; in 1822, 222 hogsheads, and 154 puncheons of rum; in 1823, 168 hogsheads, and 80 puncheons of rum; in 1824, 162 hogsheads, and 80 puncheons of rum; in 1826, 165 hogsheads, 12 tierces, and 125 puncheons. It was considered as a 200-hogshead sugar estate.

6489. What was the produce in apprenticeship and in freedom?—There was a vast deal of difference between apprenticeship and freedom, because there were a variety of circumstances attending the estate during the apprenticeship, from litigation between the attorneys of the co-proprietors and myself.

6490. What was the produce during apprenticeship?—It was very uncertain, because, arising out of a misunderstanding between the attorney and me, he threw the estate into Chancery, and after it came out of Chancery it reverted to me and the other attorney, and on being removed, and his power dying away, by countermanding the jobbing negroes that were hired to continue the cultivation unknown to me, he did not do the estate much good.

6491. What was the number of the people on the property when the valuators took an account of them for compensation?—Two hundred and forty, by the valuation.

6492. Including all ages and sexes?—Yes.

9493. How many of that number were incapacitated from productive labour, in consequence of age, infancy, infirmity, or other causes?—Males 8, females 14, total 22.

6494. What number of them were abstracted as domestics?—About 14.

6495. Were jobbing labourers ever hired to assist in the cultivation of the estate?—For the last 20 years and upwards to the amount of about 400 *l.* or 500 *l.*

6496. Was that during the apprenticeship also?—And during the apprenticeship also very nearly to that amount.

6497. What was the annual average amount of expense or number in slavery and in apprenticeship?—Their numbers are not very easily ascertained, but the charge for them would almost tell their number, as I paid 1 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling a head for every able-bodied person; the general charge was from 420 *l.* to 290 *l.* sterling a year.

6498. *Chairman.*] For what work did you pay 1 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling a head?—For digging cane holes; heavy work.

6499. Was it for a day's work?—For a day's work.

6500. Sir *C. Douglas.*] If they work by task, what was the charge per acre during slavery and during apprenticeship?—£. 8 and 9 *l.* an acre.

6501. When the people first became free in August 1838, did they first apply to you for employment, or did you apply to them for labour?—They applied to me.

6502. How long after the 1st of August?—The 1st of August took place on the Wednesday; my people took Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to go to church. On the Tuesday the whole of them came to me for employment.

6503. What wages did they ask?—No wages at all; they left it to me to give whatever I chose.

6504. What did you offer them?—I asked them first what would satisfy them; they would not state any sum, but simply said, "We leave it to you, master, to give us what you think fair." I did not hesitate a moment, because I knew I had been paying 2 *s.* 11 *d.* currency for hired labour, and I said that I would give them 1 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling if they would work for me from sunrise till four o'clock in the afternoon. They thanked me, and in less than two days every man, woman and child upon the estate was at work.

6505. Were they all money payments which you made?—All.

6506. What were the conditions as relates to the use of house and grounds, medical attendance, &c.?—When I spoke to them I told them they were now as free as myself, and that they would have to find themselves in every article

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necessary for their sustenance, clothing, food, medical attendance, and even implements of husbandry; and I said to them, "As the property is not wholly my own, you must pay a certain rent for your houses and grounds; the condition I wish you to come to is this, if I give you 1 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling, you must pay me 2 *s.* a week for the use of your houses and grounds. A man with his family, and his children under 12 years of age, were to be included in that, but if they had sons or daughters grown up, who had separate houses or separate grounds, they must pay some small amount in addition to what their parents paid." They all agreed to that, and did pay it.

6507. Did you ever serve the people with notice to quit the estate, either before or after the apprenticeship, if they would not take your labour terms?—No.

6508. Was your crop off the ground when freedom commenced?—No; 100 acres of canes were left uncut after the 1st of August.

6509. What rent did you charge the people for their houses and grounds?—Two shillings sterling a week.

6510. Did they pay that rent weekly?—They did at the end of the week.

6511. Did you, or any other persons connected with you, keep a shop on the estate for the supply of the negroes?—Never, on my estate.

6512. Was rent ever enforced by an appeal to the justices?—Never by me.

6513. Did you employ other labourers than those attached to the estate since freedom?—A great number.

6514. To what extent?—As many as 180 or 200.

6515. What was their general behaviour as free labourers?—Nothing could be better.

6516. What were the periods of day labour as to time?—From sunrise till four o'clock in the afternoon.

6517. Did they labour as well during freedom as they had done in slavery or apprenticeship?—They did; quite as well, after such a sudden transition, as they could be expected to do.

6518. Were they sober?—Very sober.

6519. Were they mostly of the Established Church?—They were; they did go as often as they could, but it was seldom they could find access to it, or myself either.

6520. Was the cultivation of the estate kept up in freedom to the same extent as during slavery and apprenticeship?—Not to the same extent, for the reasons I have already stated.

6521. Had you a steam-engine, or water, or other mill, upon the estate?—We had a steam-engine.

6522-3. Was night-work performed upon your estate?—Not during freedom; they worked till 10 o'clock at night to grind off any canes that were left, and if I had wished they would have worked at night.

6524. What is the cost of making a hogshead of sugar now, in freedom, including every contingent expense?— Taking the rate of wages and the number of persons I employed, I suppose about 5 *l.* or 5 *l.* 10 *s.*; it depends upon the size of the hogshead of sugar; my hogsheads of sugar were about 16 cwt. or 17 cwt., that is when the crops were good.

6525. Viscount *Howick.*] Is that for the manufacture only, or does that include the expense of cultivation?—I think it will include the cultivation altogether; that is, provided the canes are cut at the proper time, and that they yield their produce in the way they generally do when they are cut in season, but not in the way in which mine were cut under the circumstances of the cane field being neglected so long after the 1st of August; for those 100 acres of canes only made 30 hogsheads of sugar.

6526. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Are you aware of any estates having been thrown out of cultivation?—There were several given up about me, from which I had negroes.

6527. From what cause?—I suspect from want of means to carry them on.

6528. Do you think the negroes are sufficient in number for the cultivation of Jamaica?—Yes.

6529. Are you aware of their number, when they first became free?—Above 300,000.

6530. Have any of the people belonging to the estates left the property since they became free?—I believe a great many; but with me not one.

6531. Have

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6531. Have you ever employed any Africans recently imported?—No; they were not imported when I was in Jamaica.

6532. How have the seasons been, generally, since freedom commenced?—Nothing could be finer, except 1840, which was dry; but Morant Estate never was a dry estate, it was so well situated, having two rivers running through it, and being in a position where the land wind and the sea breeze met, the clouds used kindly to descend and water it, and the heavy dews moistened the cane fields, and they never suffered much from drought.

6533. Is 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day a fair rate of wages?—I think it is.

6534. With 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day for labour, is 2 *s.* too high a rent for a house and grounds?—No, I do not think it is. I think 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day is not too much, when a man has to find himself in everything, both in and out of crop, employed and unemployed, and in sickness, and under the circumstances that all negroes are liable to, for there are many parts of the year when you cannot give them employment in the rainy season, and if you wished them to work they could not do it.

6535. Are there any periods of the year when the negroes cannot be employed?—A great many; you do not want them some parts of the year; I should think, taking occasional sickness, and taking the periods which they must have for the cultivation of their own grounds, including Sundays, you may fairly deduct 100 days out of 365.

6536. Do you think that if the planters had, in the first instance of freedom, offered 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, all the negroes would have commenced labour soon after the 1st of August 1838?—In the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East they would, about me.

6537. To what do you attribute the disinclination of the people to labour?—Their being offered too little at the commencement of freedom.

6538. Were any estates unprovided with cash to pay their labourers, or to continue cultivation when freedom took place?—Some of the managers told me so, that they had not got cash to carry on the cultivation.

6539. You do not know it of your own knowledge?—I did not interfere with other proprietors' affairs, but they told me that that was the case; and I know very well that when they did work for wages, half the people only were employed.

6540. Do you consider the state of things in Jamaica to be desperate?—No, I do not consider any such thing.

6541. Do you think that cultivation must soon cease if matters are not adjusted between the planters and their labourers?—No, I do not think so.

6542. Is there any census of the free labourers?—There is no census of the free labourers, but there is a census which existed up to the last hour of the apprenticeship of every negro upon every property in Jamaica. A census of the free labourers might be very easily obtained; there cannot be much difference between the period when freedom commenced and now; it is as possible for the parish authorities to make a census of the people in the parish as it is in this country; indeed they have it already prepared.

6543. Would it be desirable, in your opinion, that a census should be made as speedily as possible?—I think it is very important for the Government to be in possession of it; they would see what number were capable of cultivation, and what number were incapable; they would also see what I should consider very material, the progressive increase of the people since freedom, and what may be expected to be the future increase.

6544. Did the slaves possess much property in money as slaves?—Many of them, as slaves, possessed considerable property.

6545. How did they employ it?—They had no means of employing it, except buying provisions, and what might be necessary for their use.

6546. How did they employ it when they became free?—When they became free, many of them that had been served with ejectments to quit their properties, were determined not to be subject to those things, and they purchased land; others, again, were determined that they would have a voice in their own affairs, and record their freeholds in order to have their own representatives for their own protection.

6547. Did any of the people upon your own estate purchase their freedom?—Some of them did.

6548. After they became apprentices?—Yes.

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6549. How long before 1838 did they purchase their freedom?—Some of them shortly before, but those were principally persons of colour.

6550. You said that you could not obtain access to the church; how near was the church to your estate?—From my estate's gates not half a mile.

6551. How was it that you could not obtain access to it?—There was no clergyman ever to be found there. I have gone with my family four, five, or six Sundays running, and waited for a clergyman for some time, and no clergyman came. The clerk was there, and that was the case every year I was there. I was obliged to go to the Wesleyan worship, and my people were obliged to do the same. The consequence was, that almost every man and woman upon the property became Dissenters.

6552. Did the negroes understand the apprenticeship?—Perfectly, with me.

6553. Were they satisfied with it?—Perfectly.

6554. Do you think there was much detriment done in consequence of the apprenticeship being put an end to suddenly?—Unquestionably, in my opinion.

6555. Had you any notice of it?—I did not know it.

6556. How came that?—I do not know. It was a secret amongst a certain party there. I saw Mr. Barclay, the Member for St. Thomas-in-the-East, the evening before he went down to the House of Assembly, and I begged him to pause before he gave his concurrence to it, upon the principle, that very few in the country were prepared with money payment; parties in the country were not prepared to give them letters of credit; and I considered that we were bound to keep the remainder of the apprenticeship as a part of the compensation, and that we were not ready to commence cash payments; and I stated to him, that I knew perfectly well that there were many annuitants, and many large properties that had to provide orphans and other persons in this country from year to year, who ran the risk of not getting anything if the measure did not succeed, and that the British Government could not be considered responsible for all the consequences.

6557. Did you, in the management of the estate, act in concert with the attorney for the other co-proprietors?—No, I did not. They were appointed without my concurrence; the attorney was determined to throw the estate into Chancery the moment I came out; in fact, he told me I had no right to look into my own property. My own attorney told me that I had no right to come the property to look at it.

6558. Do you think the negroes would have commenced labour so soon as you state that they did after they became free, if you had not been upon the the property?—I am sure they would not.

6559. Did they refuse to labour for the attorneys?—They did, on the terms they wished them to take.

6560. What became of the canes that were left uncut after the 1st of August 1838?—My own people consented to take them off at 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. To assist them, I hired a great number of persons, from 180 to 200.

6561. What effect had the neglect upon the future canes?—That neglect ruined them, my taking them off saved them. If that 100 acres had been taken off in time, it would have made 100 hogsheads of sugar, but not taking them off then, it lost the proportion.

6562. How long is it since any other co-proprietor, except yourself, was upon the property?—A great many years.

6563. When did you come into possession?—In 1820.

6564. What is your own opinion of proprietors residing upon their own property?—It is the salvation of the properties.

6565. Do you think it is detrimental their being managed by attorneys or agents?—No, I do not think it is detrimental; but I think if proprietors were to go out and look into their affairs, they might select fit and proper persons to manage in their absence; but I think it was important for every proprietor having West India property, particularly in the state in which the negroes were, to have gone out and looked into their own affairs, in order that they might see what would be the result if they were left to themselves.

6566. What induced you to go out?—I went out in consequence of the extraordinary expenses of the island agency and the badness of our sugar, and the diminution of our negroes, who died very rapidly.

6567. Did you often change your attorneys before you went out?—The attorneys

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attorneys were often changed, my co-partners being frequently dissatisfied, I determined to see with my own eyes the real state of the property, and that was what induced me to go out.

6568. You had a very small share of the estate?—I had only a sixth.

6569. What extent of ground had any of your negroes?—They had from one to two and three acres; I never restricted them in any way; they had as much ground as they chose to occupy, and they might change them whenever they pleased, upon asking me.

6570. Was it considered part of the payment of their money wages?—Never. Nothing was mixed up with the money wages payment.

6571. Were any of your negroes ever taken before the magistrates while they were apprentices?—Once or twice before a special justice for neglect of duty. Young lads and one elderly man for ill-treating cattle.

6572. Do you think the negroes have confidence in the administration of justice by the special justices?—Yes, certainly they have.

6573. What is your opinion with respect to African immigration?—I am decidedly opposed to it. I think there is a sufficient population in the colony to carry on the cultivation of the estates, provided they are paid an equitable rate of wages. But if it can be incontrovertibly proved after all, that they will not work them, from the evidence I have heard, I see no other alternative but the importation of Africans. But according to the impression upon my mind, I think the population of the colony is quite sufficient, because not only were several estates thrown up, but the cane fields were reduced upon almost every estate, and they do not require the same number of hands to carry on the cultivation of the estate in freedom as in slavery.

6573*. Do you think the natives would look with jealousy upon the importation of Africans?—The creole negroes would; I think they would consider it almost an abandonment of the protection which they look for from the Government of this country with a view to compelling them to accept a lower rate of wages than they were entitled to.

6574. Do you think the Africans, if imported, could be prevented from squatting like the creoles?—I have been a good deal upon the coast of Africa, and I know a good deal of the Africans, and I believe that the Africans would do just as their brethren do in Jamaica; they would make common cause with them in everything.

6575. Then you consider that the jealousy that you think would exist would only exist for a short time?—Only for a short time, because the creoles would soon win them over to their own opinions.

6576. Is there any observation you wish to make to the Committee with reference to the importation of Africans into the colony?—I left the colony 20 months ago; there was no African immigration contemplated then, although there were frequent meetings held in the parish for European immigration, to all which I was opposed, knowing that they will not do; I have seen repeatedly Europeans introduced; I saw one morning 35, about four or five years ago, come for Lyssons Estate, and when I left they were all dead, and all that I saw died as fast as they could. I do not think it is possible for them to work except as artisans, or to direct the negroes; it is possible that, in the early part of the morning, a healthy man may work, and for half an hour late in the evening, but for an European to hold the plough, or to work in a cane field, you may just as well shoot him. There were a great many Portuguese introduced in 1835, I think about 60, imported by Mr. Barclay and Mr. Nethersole, and after being in Jamaica a short time they were all about the country dying in the high roads. A number of them came to Morant Bay, and I took seven of them to prevent their dying in the roads; I sustained them as long as I could; others were left in the bay in a state of fever; I got them medical assistance, and found a lodging for them at my own expense, and gave them money and clothes. The parish would not relieve them, and the parties to whom they were consigned refused to pay for what I had done for them. I believe they all died in a short time.

6577. Is it your opinion that a person possessing capital, having an estate in Jamaica, if he were to go out there with that capital would make it answer?—Yes. If I could purchase the other proprietors' shares in Morant Estate I would go out to-morrow in the full assurance that as many of our negroes would work for me as I wanted at a moderate amount of wages, and I should

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consider employing a creole negro, accustomed to sugar cultivation, cheaper at 2 *s.* than a raw African at 1 *s.* sterling.

6578. Has crime decreased or increased in St. Thomas-in-the-East?—There was no crime when I was there; there might be offences as there are in all societies, but there was no crime that I saw.

6579. *Chairman.*] When did you leave Jamaica?—In August 1840.

6580. Then you had about a year and a half's experience of the operation of freedom?—Yes.

6581. Did you go out to Jamaica authorised by your co-proprietors to control the management of the estate?—No; I had no such authority.

6582. Did you practically, when you were there, manage that estate?—Not till it fell into my hands by order of the Court of Chancery.

6583. When was that?—About eight or ten months after I arrived.

6584. Do you mean that about eight or ten months after you arrived in the island it fell into your hands, to the exclusion of the rights of your co-proprietors?—I do; the Chancellor decreed that it should be managed by receivers, and I was appointed one of them, and Mr. Taylor was the other.

6585. Then by the authority of the Court of Chancery, after the expiration of eight or nine months, you were the manager of that estate, in connexion with Mr. Taylor, without reference to the authority of your co-proprietors?—Yes; the co-proprietors neither authorised their attorney to throw the estate into Chancery nor anybody else, but he threw it in out of revenge towards me; the consequence was, that the Chancellor appointed me one of the receivers.

6586. Under the authority of that appointment you carried on the management of the estate yourself, independent of the rights of your co-proprietors?—I did.

6587. They had no authority over your proceedings?—No; I was accountable to the Chancellor only.

6588. Did you, under that authority, manage the estate yourself, or did you delegate any part of the management of it to an attorney or an overseer?—All estates have overseers and the manager or attorney, or the proprietor living upon the property gives his overseers directions. The overseer was not appointed by the Chancellor; the Chancellor appointed me, and I appointed an overseer, and he was subject to my directions. I managed the planting part, and Mr. Taylor managed the contingent part.

6589. Then the overseer worked under you, subject to your authority, as a sort of bailiff?—Yes.

6590. There was no attorney employed upon the estate then?—No.

6591. Then how was it that you quarrelled with the attorney during the apprenticeship?—That was afterwards, when the receivership was removed.

6592. When was the receivership was removed?—About a year and a half afterwards.

6593. After the removal of the receivership, into what hands did the management of the estate fall?—The parties at home wrote to me, and requested that I would relinquish the receivership. I wrote them word to say that I did not apply for it; that it was their attorney that applied for it; and I was ready to relinquish it.

6594. After you had been receiver a year and a half, the parties at home wrote to request you to give up the receivership?—Yes.

6595. By the word "parties," do you mean your co-proprietors?—Yes; their attorney.

6596. Can you state what was the reason of their desiring you to give up the receivership?—I do not know.

6597. What took place upon their so desiring you to give up the receivership?—I relinquished it, and handed it over.

6598. You complied with that desire, and ceased to be the receiver?—I did, and Mr. Taylor also did.

6599. Did they also desire that Mr. Taylor should give up his duties?—Yes; the receivership ceased altogether, and consequently Mr. Taylor's powers ceased with mine.

6600. Into what hands was the receivership then entrusted?—There was no receivership then; it reverted to the attorney.

6601. Then your authority ceased?—As the receiver. I still looked after my

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my own property, my own one-sixth share; I was resident proprietor in the country.

6602. Subsequent to you ceasing to be receiver and commencing the management of your own sixth, did you manage your own sixth, and the attorney manage for the other five proprietors?—No; we managed conjointly.

6603. Did you manage with equal authority?—Quite; indeed, he was instructed to abide by my instructions.

6604. From whom did he receive those instructions?—The other co-proprietors.

6605. Did he act for the other five-sixths of the property?—We acted in conjunction.

6606. And the result was that you quarrelled?—No, I am coming to that afterwards. That gentleman died; but before he died, he went off the island and deputed another person to act for him. On his death, his power as the representative of the other attorney consequently ceased, and then the estate fell into my hands, because no other party was appointed.

6607. Did you not state, that during the apprenticeship you and the attorney disagreed?—No, his representative. Not the attorney that they appointed, but his representative, who is the same as an attorney; he and I disagreed in the management.

6608. Was the result of the disagreement very injurious to the produce of the estate?—Very.

6609. You had not sufficient authority to carry on the cultivation of the estate, independently of the representative?—No.

6610. What was the produce of the estate during apprenticeship?—It was very little in proportion to what it ought to have been, on account of these misunderstandings, for when this deputy found that his authority ceased, he went to the people who supplied the estate with jobbers, and who had been previously engaged, and said, Do not send up your men upon Morant Estate for Captain Brown. I did not know of it; and by mere accident, a man who had been accustomed to supply those jobbers, put a note at the vestry table into my hands, saying, "Captain Brown, I have got this note; that is the reason why you have not my jobbing gangs."

6611. Was this representative an attorney?—He was substituted for the real attorney.

6612. How long did this disagreement between yourself and the representative last?—He was removed; I took legal advice.

6613. Was he superseded by another attorney?—Not then, he was afterwards, as soon as a communication could be made to home.

6614. Did you differ with the next?—No.

6615. How long did you carry on the management concurrently with his successor?—Till he met with an accident, which rendered him incapable of taking care of himself; and then by my concurrence, a Mr. Caten acted for him until he returned.

6616. How long did that state of things go on?—About a twelvemonth.

6617. Did you continue to exercise authority concurrently with the other attorney over the management of the estate up to the time you left?—Not up to the time I left, for the estate was so much in debt, 6,000 *l.* or 7,000 *l.*, that I gave up the estate, and would have nothing to do with it; on the appointment of another attorney before I left it, who refused to carry on the cultivation altogether. I have a letter before me now to say, that he would not advance more than 6 *l.* sterling a week for the cultivation of the estate.

6618. When did this state of things arise, that you gave up the management of the estate on account of the difficulties in which the estate was involved?—In May or June 1839; I would not advance a single farthing more.

6619. You have stated, that you gave up the management of the estate in consequence of its difficulties, when was that?—In May 1840; I gave up all further interference then.

6620. What was the cause of the difficulties in which the estate was involved?—The misconduct of the attorneys belonging to the other parties, in neglecting the cultivation.

6621. But all those difficulties had arisen during the period in which you were exercising joint management?—No; they had arisen before; in the in-

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stance of the first attorney, he threw the estate into Chancery, in consequence of which, the proprietors at home got no money.

6622. Did you never get out of those difficulties?—Not before I left the island. But those difficulties arose partly from the amazing expense we were at in erecting steam machinery to carry on the future cultivation of the property, I suppose 4,000 *l.* at least.

6623. When was that expended?—It was expended in the first or second year of the apprenticeship.

6624. How long after the commencement of freedom did you carry on the management of that estate?—From August 1838, till about June 1839. All interference on my part ceased on the attorney writing to me, that he would only advance 6 *l.* a week, on his part, for the cultivation of the property.

6625. Are the Committee to understand, that you did carry on the management of the estate from August 1838 to June 1839?—Not by myself.

6626. Concurrently with the attorney, did you manage the estate during that period?—From the commencement of freedom to the time Mr. Cooper was the attorney. He met with an accident soon after, which wholly incapacitated him from acting, and then by my concurrence he substituted Mr. Caten, with whom I conjointly carried on the cultivation of the property till Mr. Cooper came out, but immediately after Mr. Cooper came out again, Dr. Cook was appointed by the parties at home without consulting me, and superseded Mr. Cooper. Dr. Cook was appointed in May, and he continued to carry on the cultivation but a very short time, and then he wrote the overseer word to say, that he would not advance a single farthing more for the cultivation of the property beyond 6 *l.* a week, which was not enough to pay the people, or even the cattle men, or watchmen, and the cane field remained in a state of total neglect, and the crop which the overseer said would be 170 hogsheads, actually only made 20, and about 9 or 10 puncheons of rum.

6627. When was this loss?—In 1839 and 1840.

6628. Had you the management of the estate from August 1838 to June 1839?—Not the whole time.

6629. For how much of the time?—I acted in conjunction with Mr. Cooper, who was the attorney on the property when freedom commenced, and I acted in conjunction with his representative Mr. Caten, but when Dr. Cook was appointed the attorney, I would not act in conjunction with him.

6630. When did you cease to act?—When he was appointed, in May 1839.

6631. Then you had the management from August 1838 to June 1839?—In conjunction with others.

6632. Therefore you are not conversant with the details of the estate as to wages, or the supply of labour, or any other essential particular, after the date of June 1839?—I remained on the estate till June 1840, and watched what was going on; but the whole cultivation of the property ceased from the period I mention, when the attorney refused to advance money for the further cultivation. Of course there is no management required when you suspend operations.

6633. After May 1839 your management of the estate ceased, and the cultivation of the estate ceased, and that state of things lasted till you left the island?—Yes; I do not know what Dr. Cook did after I left the estate in May 1840.

6634. Then after the date of May 1839, whether there was an adequate supply of labour, or whether there was any supply of labour, would be immaterial, because, so far as your knowledge goes, there was no cultivation of the estate?—Not to my knowledge.

6635. You state during the year 1839 the produce of the estate fell off from 170 hogsheads down to 20 hogsheads of sugar; then if such was the reduced produce of the estate in the year 1839, whether you had a good supply of labour, or whether you had any supply of labour at all, must be very immaterial with a crop so enormously reduced?—Quite so.

6636. You stated that many estates were thrown up, and that upon those that were not thrown up, the extent of cane field was greatly reduced; what was the cause of that?—They would not pay the wages the people wished to receive. On the 19th of January 1839 a public meeting was held for the parish, which was called by the custos; at that meeting almost every planter in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East attended.

6637. But

6637. But somehow or other, in some manner connected with the question of labour, those estates were thrown out of cultivation, or the extent of cane field upon them greatly reduced?—They were; the general complaint was that the negroes would not take the wages.

6638. Mr. *Barclay.*] You mentioned that, out of 365 days, the negroes worked about 265; do they receive any pay for those hundred days that they do not work?—No.

6639. You have stated that there were plenty of labourers if they had paid a sufficient rate of wages, particularly upon the reduced scale of cultivation; what is the present production of Jamaica, as compared with former times?—I do not know; I have not seen the returns lately.

6640. You are aware that the production has very greatly diminished?—Yes.

6641. Do you think there are labourers sufficient in the colony to produce the same quantity of sugar that was formerly produced?—Not in the same time, because night-work is done away with; but I think that if the negroes were offered higher wages they would work at night; but I consider that it was the night-work that occasioned all the destruction of the negroes' health, and the diminishing of them during slavery.

6642. Sir *C. Douglas.*] What was the object for which the public meeting was called, to which you have alluded?—It was in reference to the rate of wages; at that meeting the custos presided, and stated that it was done on the recommendation of Mr. Burge, the island agent. The custos stated that the plantations in the parish were in a state of ruin, that cultivation had ceased; that of all the ships lying in the port not one of them had got a hogshead of sugar, and not one had a prospect of getting one; that the negroes were insolent, idle, contumacious, and would not work for any wages that the planters could afford to pay; that they were idling about the country; that the cattle were running wild over the cane fields, and that nothing but one general scene of confusion took place; and, in fact, he stated that the emancipation was a signal failure. I was present, and I censured the custos in the court for doing this; I told him he was exceedingly wrong, for the negroes had just as much right to call a meeting to deny what he asserted; and I produced my accounts, with a view of showing that I could get as many negroes as I wanted from all their estates. I had papers with me to show that there was not an estate in St. Thomas-in-the-East, even the custos's own estate, that I could not get negroes from.

6643. Mr. *Barclay.*] What is the present position of your property, the Morant Estate?—I do not know; I believe it is as bad as it can be; a great many of the people have left it.

Alexander Geddes, Esq. called in; and Examined.

6644. *Chairman.*] HOW long have you been acquainted with, and how long have you resided in the island of Jamaica?—Twenty-two years at the period of my leaving in May last year.

6645. What was your occupation in Jamaica?—I was bred a planter, and in 1826, having gone there in 1819, I entered in charge as agent of a large sugar property, and from that time to the period of my leaving, I had concerns embracing every description of cultivation in the districts of Clarendon, Vere, Manchester, St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, St. Mary, St. George's, St. Ann's, where I own considerable property, and Trelawney. I had also other avocations, which carried me over the greater portion of the island; and, down to the period of my quitting, I had a personal knowledge of all the sugar districts in Jamaica.

6646. In what part of Jamaica have you principally resided, and managed property for the last few years?—In St. Ann's, where I own property; and during the last few years my concerns were in St. George's, St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, Manchester, and Westmorland.

6647. Where have you resided since the commencement of freedom?—In St. Ann's.

6648. And you have managed sugar estates?—I have managed my own grazing farms, and conducted sugar estates in St. George's, St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, and Westmorland, and coffee plantations and grazing farms in Manchester.

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6649. Did the sugar estates belong to yourself?—No, I represented them as attorney.

6650. The land under actual cultivation in Jamaica bears a very small proportion to the whole island?—I do not consider that the land, at this moment under cultivation in Jamaica, is equal to one-fourth of the whole island, but another fourth of the island may be deemed impracticable for the purposes of cultivation, being of a rugged and precipitous nature, or else barren savannahs, producing nothing.

6651. Viscount *Howick.*] Only one-third of what is really available is in cultivation?—Yes.

6652. *Chairman.*] What has been your practice upon the estates of which you have had the management with reference to the occupation of houses and grounds by the negro population?—With the exception of one estate in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, where the negroes are particularly docile, and readily meet every requisition made upon them, I charged a rent for every house, regulated not so much by the value of the house as by the ability of the person occupying it to bear the rent; that is to say, an able person was charged 2 *s.* per week; an invalid person occupying as good a house was charged only 6 *d*; sometimes nothing.

6653. When you say 2 *s.* a week, was that payment made by the head of the family, or did you exact any rent in proportion to the number of persons?—No; the principle I desired to establish was one totally different from any such system; I only looked to the head of the family for rent. If an able-bodied man resided in the house, working extensive grounds, I charged 1 *s.* for those grounds, but that was not carried to any extent.

6654. The rent you required depended rather upon the ability of the occupier than upon the value of the property?—Invalids and people who were elderly, although occupying as good houses as able and effective persons, were only charged one-fourth of the rent, and in many instances nothing.

6655. Do you think that was a good plan?—Yes; I considered that elderly persons and invalids had a claim upon the consideration of the owner, whom they had served so many years.

6656. Do not you think it would have been a better plan, if a system of rent were advisable at all, to affix a specified value to particular descriptions of property, and to let the rent depend upon that value, and then to extend any charity that you might desire to individuals in another shape?—That was precisely my mode of operation.

6657. How much land did each labourer occupy with his house?—The quantity of land occupied by the labourer in Jamaica will vary, not according to the opinion or wishes of the master as to what is right, but according to the quality of the land, and the account to which the labourer can turn the land, which depends again upon its vicinity to a market, and in no case did I ever restrict a negro who demeaned himself properly, in the extent of his ground.

6658. What was the actual extent usually occupied upon your estates by each negro?—From half an acre to two acres.

6659. Did you charge 1 *s.* rent for the house, and 1 *s.* rent for the ground irrespective of the quantity?—Where rent was paid for the house, no rent was charged for the ground. It was only in cases where an able person had a valuable ground that he was charged a rent of 1 *s.* a week for the ground.

6660. The system with regard to rent was altogether rather arbitrary in its nature, and not carried on on any fixed principle?—Yes, I desired from the first to reduce it to a fixed principle; I adhered firmly to exacting the value from able persons occupying houses and grounds, and only reduced the rent where persons had become old or invalid.

6661. When you got 2 *s.* rent, it was for the house, not for the ground?—The house and ground together.

6662. Was this rent the subject of any contract between you and the workmen?—It was the subject of a distinct contract, particularly in one or two instances where the negroes, as I discovered, acting under the advice of the clergyman who had the care of them, solicited that they should have their tenancies upon particular terms; and on their requesting that they should have a more explicit contract than what had been made, which was merely verbal, and quite satisfactory in most cases, I instantly agreed to give it them.

6663. What

6663. What was the nature of that more explicit contract?—They wished to have it in writing, and to have it for a twelvemonth.

6664. Did you find that many of your workmen applied to you to have a written contract for a twelvemonth?—Only in the case of one of the properties, and I instantly acceded to it, desiring the person under whose advice they were acting to meet me upon the estate; I afterwards found that not one person upon those properties attached the slightest value to those written contracts, nor did they require it.

6665. In the other cases of verbal contracts, did you consider yourself at liberty to discharge those men from their holdings at a week's notice?—If their tenancy was for a week, they required a week's notice; if their tenancy was for a month, they required a month's notice; if it extended beyond a month, they required three months' notice.

6666. What were your contracts chiefly?—They commenced with a week, but they all ended in a twelvemonth's tenancy.

6667. When you left the island, were all your men holding by twelvemonths' leases?—Yes.

6668. By verbal contracts?—Yes.

6669. And all paying rents?—With the exception of one estate.

6670. Had you any difficulty in collecting those rents?—In the first instance there was very great difficulty; the negroes evinced a decided objection to the payment of rent; it was an element with which they were totally unacquainted.

6671. Notwithstanding that difficulty, did you collect your rents?—I did.

6672. Do you think that the system of making them pay rent has proved a beneficial system?—I had hoped that at the termination of the apprenticeship, if the masters conceded to them the possession of the grounds without rent, they would give an adequate return; but I considered that the rent system became indispensable upon their declining to work steadily for the masters.

6673. Did you make it part of your contract for the occupation of a house that the man should give you his work?—I attempted it for the first few weeks of freedom, but I found it totally futile, and abandoned it entirely.

6674. Then latterly you have made no such bargain?—Every man upon the property is perfectly at liberty to carry his labour to any other market.

6675. You were understood to state that the provision-grounds are held rent free?—Yes; the 2 *s.* being all that is exacted.

6676. What did it depend upon, whether a man occupied half an acre or an acre, or two acres?—It depended upon his own habits, and upon the productiveness of the ground; whether the land was situated in a seasonable quarter, and whether there was a ready market for the produce.

6677. Do you consider that half an acre is sufficient to yield a man all that he wants for his own personal supplies?—The freeholds attached to the sugar plantations in Jamaica are generally very extensive, and they have large ranges of forest lands attached to them. It has never been the custom to restrict the negroes; they have culled the richest spots, and having taken one half acre, and used that for two or three years, they then take another; a half acre thus used is competent to subsist a man and his wife and three or four children a whole year.

6678. Does that explanation apply to the provision-grounds upon your estates?—Yes.

6679. Consequently the half acre would not be sufficient unless renewed every two or three years?—Yes.

6680. Might it not be renewed by means of manure?—The land recovers so rapidly in that country, that it is not worth the labourer's while to apply manure; he finds a ready resource in altering his locality.

6681. Would the necessity for taking fresh land after two or three years, apply equally to the larger quantity of two acres?—He would be at liberty to take up two fresh acres.

6682. And they do so?—They do so.

6683. Are you now speaking of fresh land that he would have to clear, or are you speaking of provision-grounds already cleared upon your own estates?—Precisely; upon those estates there is fresh land of unlimited extent.

6684. When the negro finds it necessary to change the land, he has to reclaim new land from the forest?—Yes. Reclaiming land, merely implies its being felled and burnt off.

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6685. What does that cost per acre?—From 2 *l.* sterling to 3 *l.* per acre.

6686. Does that expense in every instance of a change of land fall upon the negro?—Certainly. They recur in the course of their cultivation to the spot they previously occupied, on which no large timber of course grows, and this system having been long in operation, taking up a succession of such spots, the expense of clearing those lands, which we call ruinates, will not cost more than from 12 *s.* to 20 *s.* sterling per acre.

6687. Every two or three years the negro will have to incur a charge of from 12 *s.* to 20 *s.* per acre for clearing new land?—Yes. Land having been seven years out of cultivation in that country, is considered quite as good as it originally was.

6688. In seven years, would it be thickly grown with bush?—So densely that no person could penetrate it without the aid of a cutlass.

6689. Then if under the system you have described, half an acre is sufficient for the support of a family, in those cases in which the habit or the inclination of the labourer leads him to occupy as much as two acres, he would be enabled to reap a very considerable surplus produce?—Yes; he would be enabled to reap the surplus produce of an acre and a half.

6690. That he would be able to carry to market and to convert into money?—Yes.

6691. And therefore in this way he would derive considerable supplies, in addition to any money-wages you may pay him?—Yes.

6692. Do not you think that under those circumstances it would be fair, and might be beneficial to exact from the labourer a fair rent upon a given scale, according to the quantity of land he occupies?—It might; in equity it would no doubt be perfectly proper; but any attempt to restrict them in the extent of their cultivation would lead to such endless bickerings and discontent, that no planter would attempt it.

6693. What should you be afraid of?—You would lose the tenant entirely, to a certainty; he would retire, and find an occupation elsewhere, where any extent of land would be conceded to him.

6694. You think such a system would be perfectly equitable as regards the labourer, and beneficial as regards the planter; but you would be afraid to put it in force for fear you should drive the man from his land?—Yes.

6695. Viscount *Howick*.] There is so much more land than is required, that the competition among the proprietors for labourers would enable the man immediately to find another situation?—Precisely.

6696. *Chairman*.] In any of the neighbourhoods to which you have adverted, has the practice of squatting prevailed to any considerable extent?—No such thing as forcible squatting is known to any extent in Jamaica; they do not attempt it.

6697. Is the law sufficient to restrain it if it were to take place?—Quite so; the laws are as perfect as laws can be for every purpose; they have been rendered so within the last two or three years.

6698. As you do not exact labour as the condition of the occupation of those premises, it is presumed that you have not often had occasion to eject labourers from those premises?—Acting as attorney for others, I felt hesitation in doing so. I often felt that they merited ejectment; and upon my own concerns I unhesitatingly ejected them upon their declining to enter into terms to pay rent.

6699. When you resorted to that course, did you find any difficulty in finding a successor for those premises?—I never got any.

6700. Then in ejecting them you incurred an almost certain loss of labour?—Yes. I ought to state that grazing farms are not so dependent upon labour as coffee and sugar properties.

6701. When you did eject, did you allow the labourer the benefit of any crops he might have growing upon the provision-grounds?—My instructions to my manager were particularly to molest them in nothing if they were not insubordinate; to injure them in no respect; to permit them to leave the properties with as little injury as possible. But when I detected them, after having left, attempting to continue to cultivate grounds in the forest attached to the estate, I had those grounds invariably destroyed.

6702. Did you allow them to take the crops off?—Certainly.

6703. What wages have you been in the habit of paying your labourers?—

One

One shilling and sixpence a day for a task which has been done in four hours and a half.

6704. Has that been the rate of wages ever since freedom?—Yes. A smaller rate was attempted to be established, but it was found impracticable.

6705. What was the rate that was attempted?—The question of occupation of houses and grounds was mixed up with it, and the people were offered from 8*d.* to 1*s.* per day, no rent being charged them, and they declined it.

6706. How long was that system tried?—A few weeks; not two weeks, as far as I was concerned, or as far as I had an opportunity of observing.

6707. Do you consider that 1*s.* sterling, with those advantages, would have been a fair remuneration for their labour?—I consider it would have been as much as the planter could have afforded without the charge of rent.

6708. Would it have been enough to give them the necessaries and comforts of life?—Certainly, if they worked continuously.

6709. Do you not think that if the masters had held out upon those terms the negroes must have submitted?—No; they are not subject to the same pressure as people in other countries, where provisions are dear and scarce; they had three months tenure of their dwellings under the law which abolished the apprenticeship, and it required three months more to eject them.

6710. Is it not the fair result of what you have stated, that the rate of wages is in the breast of the negro, and he may exact what he pleases?—I am sorry to say it is.

6711. And it is your opinion that, for whatever rate of wages the negro may hold out, so great is his power that he must succeed in obtaining it?—If he were to demand a rate which was palpably and unavoidably ruinous, of course men would not submit to it, because they might demand such a rate of wages as it would most certainly be quite impossible to bear up under, and we should have a better chance of getting better terms by holding out.

6712. You mean that when it came to that point at which the planter found it indispensable to resist a further advance, you think the negro would submit?—Unquestionably.

6713. Does not it, in fact, come to this, that in the West Indies, as elsewhere, you will ultimately arrive at a fair balance of wages between the two parties?—It is impossible; first let the supply of labour be equal to the demand; at present it is inadequate. Till that is the case, the inference suggested in the question will not apply to the West Indies.

6714. Are the Committee to infer, from what you have stated, that although 1*s.* 6*d.* is a high rate of wages, the planter would rather pay that rate than abandon the cultivation of his estate?—He will pay it as long as his means last, or as long as he can borrow money, but I wish to say that I would not advocate any reduction of the wages of the negro; all I would desire is, that his labour should be performed as labour is performed here.

6715. Does not that come to the same thing, in effect, if you get more work for the same money; it is, in effect, paying a less rate of wages?—Precisely.

6716. If the planter found the present rate of wages were such as he could not consistently with his welfare pay, do you think the negro would not be compelled to take a lower rate of wages than is now paid?—I am sure he would not.

6717. What would he do?—He would betake himself to the cultivation of waste lands, which can be purchased at nominal prices. One great source of our misfortune in Jamaica is, that the negroes were taught to place their sole reliance for subsistence upon the cultivation of the roots common to the country; and it is impossible to eradicate that habit; it is now our great bane.

6718. Do you pay the labourer by the day, or by the task?—By the task, invariably.

6719. Never by the day?—In no case where it can be avoided. Tending cattle must be paid otherwise.

6720. Is your work in crop time all done by task?—It is.

6721. Do the tasks vary in crop time and out of crop time?—They are only varied by the demand natural in those matters.

6722. Are the day's tasks all so arranged as to occupy nearly the same period of time in their proper performance?—No, the day's task in the field is done by the negro, as far as respects the cultivation of the estate, in four hours and a half; in crop time it is absolutely necessary to procure 10 hours' work

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from those engaged in the manufacture of the produce, not in cutting the cane.

6723. It being necessary to get 10 hours' labour, have you succeeded in doing it?—Yes, by paying additional wages, from 2 *s.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling.

6724. For those high wages will they work well for 10 consecutive hours?—They do not give an adequate return in labour, or anything like it.

6725. Can you afford to pay those high wages during crop time?—The result of the estates under my charge proves that those wages cannot be afforded; but we have carried on the manufacture and the cultivation, in the hope of some change taking place for the better, or of some of the proprietors of poorer estates abandoning their estates, and giving us more labour.

6726. Do you find that the negro will ever work two tasks in a day?—Unfortunately not.

6727. If he would, should you be glad to pay him 3 *s.* for two tasks?—Yes; I ought to mention, in justice to the negroes, that the hardest work performed by the negro is digging cane-holes, and at that work he often earns 3 *s.* or 4 *s.* sterling per day.

6728. Is that more than two tasks?—It is about two tasks; but being harder work it is better paid.

6729. Is the cane-hole digging task put higher in point of payment than other field tasks?—Yes, from its being harder work. This operation is done at a cheaper rate than it was previously to freedom; but the rates previously demanded were the effect of a combination on the part of the persons having jobbing gangs, who by coming to an understanding to fix a certain rate for opening land, established a high one.

6730. Have those wages of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a task, and from 2 *s.* to 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a day in crop time, been the rate of wages steadily paid ever since the alteration you mention, soon after the commencement of freedom?—Uniformly.

6731. Have you at any period endeavoured to lower them?—Repeatedly.

6732. To what extent have you carried your endeavours?—To the extent of giving instructions, and having those instructions attempted to be carried into effect, but always with the want of success.

6733. Did the labourers strike?—Yes, always; a few of the more docile and better disposed would remain, but they were a mere skeleton of the people.

6734. How long did they hold out?—We have always, being in the responsible situation of agents, felt the necessity of coming to their terms in the course of a week or two.

6735. Was that from the conviction that if you had carried it further they would not have yielded?—I was quite convinced that the surrounding proprietors and agents were quite ready, for the salvation of their estates, to give higher wages.

6736. Had your labourers any advantages besides their money-wages and the occupation of their grounds?—Yes; their gardens, which their forefathers have established, and which are exceedingly valuable in point of fruit which they produce, and the coffee which is grown in them; and no well-disposed labourer is ever denied permission to have a horse or two, or a brood mare or two, upon the property, provided there are the means of support upon the estate.

6737. How often are the wages paid?—By the day, by the week, or by the month, as the labourer desires; I never failed an hour, in any one of my concerns, in paying the wages as they were asked.

6738. What is the general system?—The general system is to pay them by the week.

6739. And you conformed to that, and have always done so?—Always.

6740. In money?—In money.

6741. When you so paid wages in money, did you deduct the amount of rent due?—I endeavoured to draw the utmost possible distinction between the payment of rent and the payment of wages; if a labourer owed rent, and was in arrears of rent, I never permitted the circumstance to be alluded to in the payment of his wages.

6742. Did you always find that you had facilities for recovering any rent that might be in arrear before a magistrate?—I would say in reference to all the laws bearing upon the labourer or the master, that they are perfectly equal to every purpose, and as far as I am concerned I have nothing to complain of.

6743. From

6743. From what you have said as to the dislike of the labourers to pay rent, it appears that it is not your opinion that the system of paying rents has at all tended to inspire them with feelings of local attachment and unwillingness to leave their localities?—I consider that the exaction of rent, which was quite unavoidable under the circumstances, has been the means of inducing them to purchase lands.

6744. Rather than pay rent?—Rather than pay rent.

6745. Do you think it would at all tend to promote the interests of the planter if an opposite system were resorted to, and they were allowed to live rent free upon their premises receiving a lower rate of wages?—I am certain that they would not admit a lower rate of wages to be given on that account. I may be permitted to add, that I do not view with any degree of alarm or anxiety the mere purchase of land so far as it has gone yet, by the labouring population of Jamaica. I do not consider that they have improved their circumstances or augmented their means of subsistence by the purchase of land generally.

6746. What extent of garden is usually attached to those houses, in addition to the provision grounds?—From one-eighth to a quarter of an acre. It becomes exceedingly rich, beyond conception, from the perpetual dropping of leaves, and the manure they apply to it.

6747. Are their gardens quite distinct from the provision-grounds?—The garden is held in conjunction with the house.

6748. Does the garden afford great advantage?—It does, particularly near a town. The cocoa-nut tree, of which they often have a dozen in their gardens, will produce fruit to the value of 1*l.* to 3*l.* sterling per annum.

6749. Do you mean that from cocoa trees alone, in a small garden of those dimensions, the negro is enabled to derive an annual income of from 20*l.* to 30*l.* sterling!—I should be wrong if I led to Committee to suppose that any such thing was general; but I can mention the case of one of the properties of a gentleman now present, which my statements precisely bear upon, and they apply to many estates in Jamaica.

6750. Mr. *Barclay*.] What property do you allude to?—Richmond.

6751. Upon that estate, how many persons holding those provision-grounds are in that situation?—The population of the estate was about 300; and I should estimate the extent of garden ground occupied by them at 70 acres.

6752. How many of those occupiers are in possession of gardens?—Never having been connected with the estate, it is impossible for me to enter into particulars.

6753. You have mentioned that estate as affording an instance of persons occupying land with 10 or 12 cocoa-nut trees upon it, each cocoa-nut tree being worth from 1*l.* to 3*l.*; can you give no idea how many of those persons are so circumstanced?—From my knowledge generally of the structure of society upon estates, I should fancy that there are 100 householders upon that property, and that each householder would vary in his possessions from two to a dozen or more cocoa-nut trees, and claim them by inheritance, as much as you do your estate. Upon the birth of each child, in many instances, a fresh tree is planted, and it grows for a hundred years.

6754. Then in point of fact, some of those gardens produce a larger sum to the labourer than the produce of his labour upon the estate?—They do.

6755. *Chairman*.] Or than his provision-grounds?—Yes; this is frequently the case, but it is not universally the case.

6756. What descriptions of produce do they grow upon those garden grounds besides cocoa-nut trees?—As yet the negro produces no exchangeable commodity; his productions, with the exception of cocoa-nut, are limited to those consumed in the island; and I only know one instance where I ever saw a negro cultivate anything near an acre of land, in what has been considered one of the staple commodities of the country, coffee.

6757. What you have now stated of a profit from 1*l.* to 3*l.* per annum upon each of a dozen trees in a garden, is an extreme case?—It is with respect to a dozen.

6758. Have they all some cocoa-nut trees in their gardens?—Yes; there some districts where cocoa-nut trees do not thrive, in the mountains, in the interior; where the climate is moist, and the soil is of a clayey unkindly description, they do not thrive and flourish.

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6759. You were understood to say, that every negro where the soil is favourable, does have one or two cocoa-nut trees in his garden?—I can state that without the slightest hesitation.

6760. And that by means of cocoa-nut trees, or in some other mode, those small gardens are rendered so productive, as to be very profitable to the occupants?—Highly so.

6761. How many days labour in a week do you find that the negroes will perform?—I may venture unhesitatingly to state, that the average labour given by able efficient negroes to this day in Jamaica, does not average 30 hours per week for each man and woman. No labourer in Jamaica at this day works regularly more than 30 hours per week, spread over the different days they work in the week.

6762. Are the Committee to understand that the labourers will come to work on four or five days every week, but that the whole results of the week are very small, on account of the short tasks they each do?—No; the labourer does not come to his work on each day, he often absents himself for months from labour, particularly in the season of planting their provisions, which is unhappily the season also for planting our canes and coffee.

6763. When they come to work, do they work pretty regularly five days in the week?—No; there is not the slightest reliance to be placed upon them.

6764. Do you find that the number of labourers resident upon your estates has fallen off since freedom?—The number of labourers upon the estates has fallen off one-third as residents; they have betaken themselves to their own lands.

6765. You mean that they have left off residing upon the estate, and have bought properties adjacent?—Yes.

6766. Will the labourers so living upon adjacent properties give you their labour?—They do occasionally.

6767. But not regularly?—Not regularly; but they do so as regularly as the labourers remaining upon the estate; and I have stated that I do not consider that the negro has augmented his means of subsistence by taking his own lands and abandoning those rich spots which he used to cull upon his previous master's estate.

6768. Can you state with confidence what average number of days in a week your resident labourers will come to work?—The labourers do not work, upon the average, three days a week; that is to say, 100 labourers will be found only to have given that proportion of their labour during the year, which would amount in each case to three days per week.

6769. To what do you attribute this habit of not working continuously on their part?—I have stated that the negroes in Jamaica are different from the negroes in Barbadoes and in Antigua, who were fed by their masters. They were accustomed to cultivate the roots of the country for their subsistence, and a portion of their labour is given to that object; a great portion of their time they are idle.

6770. Do you think that is to be accounted for in this manner, that the advantages they enjoy from their high money-wages, and the cultivation of their grounds, enable them to make as much money as they desire with that small quantity of work?—Yes, unquestionably, the high wages have operated precisely in the way stated; very high wages having been given to people with but few wants; they could not find means of spending their money, and they retire and live idle in consequence.

6771. And you are afraid to remedy that state of things by offering a lower rate of remuneration?—Certainly.

6772. Do you find that upon the existing rate of remuneration, always considering the small quantity of work they perform, the labourers are able to provide themselves with comforts and luxuries?—With comforts and luxuries to an extent not known by any peasantry in the world, but by them and the people in British Guiana and Trinidad.

6773. And beyond, according to the habits of the rest of the world, what a labouring population could fairly expect?—Quite beyond anything I ever heard of.

6774. You stated that they keep horses?—I sold them in one year 106 horses, for 1,500 *l.* sterling.

6775. What extent of land do they generally purchase when they buy land?—The

—The extent of land generally purchased by them varies from one to three acres.

6776. Are you able to supply this want of continuous labour upon the part of the resident negroes, by hiring labourers from other quarters?—No; the poorer planters who were dependent in times past for support upon the labour of their own slaves, are now totally unable to employ them, and their labour is given now to the production of the staple commodities of the country upon the richer estates.

6777. Have many estates in your neighbourhood been abandoned?—No; but I am quite aware of the circumstances which have restrained the proprietary body from abandoning those estates.

6778. You have not derived any additional supply of labour from the abandonment of adjacent estates?—Only, I believe, from the employment of the labour of those negroes who, as slaves, were previously the support of smaller proprietors.

6779. To what extent do you consider that your estates have been injured by the diminution of continuous labour?—The produce has been reduced one-half, and the estates have been quite unproductive; the balances against us are being annually increased.

6780. Have the estates under your management and within your cognizance been cultivated within the last three years at a profit or at a loss?—At a loss.

6781. You know the parish of Trelawney?—I do.

6782. Are you acquainted with an estate called Drax Hall, with regard to which some statements were made yesterday, belonging to Mr. Pink?—Yes; I am particularly acquainted with that estate; I was named to the charge of it for three years under the will of the late proprietor, and I gave up the possession to the person now in charge of it. My own property is in the immediate vicinity of that estate.

6783. It was stated yesterday, by another witness, that that estate yielded last year a profit of 5,000*l.*, and that a profit of 7,000*l.* is anticipated from it in the current year; is that account consistent with your knowledge of the estate?—I will state that in the year 1833, 100 additional slaves were put upon the estate, upon the occasion of the death of the late proprietor. An eminent planter was employed to continue the management, and additional live stock was put upon it; everything was done to improve the cultivation, and at the end of the apprenticeship it was in the highest state of cultivation possible. It is one of the finest estates in Jamaica, and cost the proprietor, not many years ago, 40,000 guineas. At the period of my leaving Jamaica, which was in May last year, there were then canes upon that estate, two years old, which they had never been able to cut and manufacture into sugar, although this should have been done at the period of 12 months and 16 months previously, according as they were plants or ratoons. I know the estate intimately; I know that it has not averaged 200 hogsheads, and could not have exceeded 200 hogsheads last year. Then, taking it to have made 200 hogsheads of sugar, I have got a calculation made since yesterday, which shows that the net proceeds could not be more than 1,600*l.*; and that, from my knowledge of the price paid for the estate, will not be 5 per cent. upon the purchase-money. The estate is one of the finest in Jamaica, and conducted at the smallest possible expense. I was particularly struck with the witness, yesterday, having to travel out of the district of Trelawney, in which there are 70 to 80 estates, to find a case presenting a remunerative return.

6784. You think that when a statement was made to this Committee, of a profit of 5,000*l.* in the last year, and 7,000*l.* being expected in the current year, from that estate, there must be some mistake upon the subject?—I cannot for a moment doubt it.

6785. Have you employed any immigrants?—Since my leaving the island of Jamaica white immigrants have been employed. My property is in a very salubrious climate; and I have been applied to, at the urgent entreaty of one of the immigrants, to send out another, who is his relative.

6786. European emigrants in general have failed?—They have; but I have had means of observing the results of immigration from the New England States, a number of persons in the immediate vicinity of my properties having come over and undertaken the settlement of a mulberry plantation, with a view to the production of silk. Their habits are temperate, their health has

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been uniformly good, and they shift for themselves to an extent which English, or Scotch, or Irish immigrants do not.

6787. Do you think the success or otherwise of European immigration in Jamaica principally depends upon the sobriety of habits of the immigrants?—I do.

6789. Do you mean that you think the climate would allow of field labour by Europeans, provided they were temperate in their habits?—I think it is worse than folly to contemplate sending an European to the plains of Jamaica to cultivate cane, although Europeans do work to some extent in Cuba, in Porto Rico; but my firm conviction is, that it is worse than folly to attempt to send white emigrants of the Saxon race to those countries for the purpose of cultivating canes; but I believe they will answer in the mountains.

6790. Have you had upon your estates any African immigrants?—I have not.

6791. You stated that in your neighbourhood no estates have been abandoned, and that you knew the reason why; will you state what the reason is?—The very high prices of produce consequent upon the abolition of the apprenticeship, and the defalcation in the returns, had given planters a temporary confidence in the well-doing of the colony.

6792. Is it your opinion that if some great change in the state of affairs in Jamaica does not take place, abandonment of estates must follow?—I consider that, unless by some means a better system of labour can be established, that must be the result. I should wish particularly to state that I have no desire to see wages lower than what they are, but I consider that it is not so much from the high wages that we are suffering, as from the want of continuous labour, the planter often having expended hundreds of pounds upon a field to no avail, from being unable to perfect the cultivation, or to bring the products of the field to maturity for the want of an uniform supply of labour. I therefore consider that it will be impossible to continue the cultivation of the staple commodities of the island, unless one half of the properties were abandoned, which would render the taxation perfectly intolerable upon the remaining portion of them. I wish to add also, that in several districts of the island I do know that several properties have been abandoned, not in those districts I have been more particularly connected with.

6793. Have those abandoned properties been sold?—They are totally unsaleable, as well as many now advertised and in cultivation.

6794. If any general abandonment of the properties in Jamaica by the white proprietors was to take place, what, in your opinion, would be the effects upon the welfare of the colony?—The abandonment of any number of estates would concentrate this heavy taxation to which the island is now subject, rendering the public contingencies intolerable; as it is within my knowledge that on a large purchase recently made and paid for in cash, these amounted in the past year to one and a half per cent. on the consideration money; while in another case, the charge was equal to about three and a half per cent. on what the property (and it was a good one of the sort) would have sold for. These are stated not as singular cases, but as occurring to me; they are general. The roads also, being maintained at the expense of the properties, would fall into utter disrepair, while such quantities of land would come into the market as at once to give the labouring population the command of any extent of land at a rate merely nominal: thus scattering them over the face of an impervious and inaccessible country, and rendering the means of access to religious and educational instruction more difficult than ever, and at the same time destroying all chance of carrying on the best estates. The cultivation of exchangeable commodities thus ceasing, (for the black population cultivate nothing for export,) commerce, the handmaid of civilisation, would cease also, and with it the consumption of British and British colonial manufactures and products, at present very considerable, and rapidly increasing. The vast capital sunk in land, buildings, cultivation, and live stock would be lost, and the charge of maintaining the colony would fall on the mother country; while the heavy sacrifices made by this country on behalf of the African, would in a great degree be rendered unavailing. Foreigners who, in my intercourse with them in slave countries, I have found deride our measure of emancipation, and point to it as a failure, would be confirmed in their opinion, and thus induced to rivet more closely than ever the chain which holds their populations in thraldom. In travelling through Cuba and the slave states of America, the universal impression was, that the British measure of emancipation was a failure; and in Cuba

I found

I found that the measure had given a very great impulse to the slave trade, and to the price of slaves.

6795. Do you think that if circumstances should lead to the island of Jamaica being given up to the black population, they would be able to govern it to their own advantage?—They will not be for half a century to come, the adults being totally uneducated.

6796. Do you apprehend any difficulty from the increase of the franchise on the part of the negroes?—I look forward to it with very great anxiety as a landholder, having a considerable stake in Jamaica. Permit me to add, that all my feelings are in favour of an extension of the suffrage when it is accompanied with education.

6797. When you speak of looking forward with anxiety to the result of that change of the elective franchise which is taking place in Jamaica, what period are you contemplating?—The next dissolution of the House of Assembly, and annual elections of vestries.

6798. When will the next dissolution of the House of Assembly be?—That will depend on the Government here, or the Governor. It dies a natural death in seven years, and it has been three years in duration.

6799. What is the nature of the anxiety which you feel?—The nature of the anxiety which I feel, and which is grounded on symptoms which have already been evinced and felt to some extent practically, is this, which will occur to the mind of any educated and experienced person, when he knows that persons are sent to make laws for a country by electors totally devoid of education, and totally unable to comprehend the duties they have to perform in returning a legislature.

6800. What is the number of the present Legislative Assembly of Jamaica?—Forty-five.

6801. Do you anticipate that at the next dissolution it is probable that many negroes will be returned to that Assembly?—The negroes are liable, as all persons devoid of education are, to be acted upon by sudden impulses; and I have no hesitation in saying, that an agitator or a demagogue (and there are such persons there, as in all countries,) could make the negroes return any man, or any set of men, that he chose.

6802. Do you anticipate it as probable that any considerable number of negroes would be returned to the Assembly at the next dissolution?—I do not apprehend that those persons whom we have been accustomed to designate as negroes, could be returned to the House of Assembly, because a qualification of 300 *l.* a year is requisite; but I fear that they will return persons having no interest whatever in the colony, and who will procure their return by pandering to their prejudices, and to what may be the feelings which influence them, rather than from any claim they have to the confidence of the proprietary body.

6803. You apprehend therefore, a change in the nature of the representative body?—I do; and let me state, that I have gone the fullest lengths with every concession that has been hitherto made to the people of colour.

6804. Do not you think that that qualification of 300 *l.* a year will be a material and effective check upon any improper returns?—Most certainly not.

6805. You think there are many persons to be found, and likely to be returned, who are possessed of that qualification, and yet will not be sufficiently interested in the welfare of the island to render them fit representatives?—The other day a pilot was returned, a worthy man in his station of life, but totally unfit for the responsible office of representing the district for which he was returned.

6806. Had he the qualification?—He had.

6807. Had he made his money by piloting ships?—He had, and by being a butcher.

6808. How did he procure his return?—I believe in that case the weather was unpropitious, and the smaller freeholders, not caring so much about exposure to the inclemency of the weather as their more wealthy neighbours, were the majority upon the occasion of the election; I ought to add, that that election was found, upon further inquiry, to be informal, and he had to resign his seat.

6809. What proportion does the black constituency bear to the whole constituency of the island?—Hitherto it has borne not an equal proportion to other portions of the constituency, but in all time coming there will be an overwhelming majority of black freeholders.

Lunæ, 4° *die Julii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Sir Charles Douglas.
Viscount Chelsea.	Viscount Howick.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Alexander Geddes, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

JAMAICA.

Alex. Geddes, Esq.

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6810. *Chairman.*] DO the taxes in Jamaica press heavily?—They are exceedingly onerous.

6811. Upon what classes in the island do they principally bear heavily?—Almost entirely on the landed proprietors. The legislature was restricted by the Home Government from laying more than a duty of three per cent. *ad valorem* on goods of British manufacture: the most obvious way of relieving the planters of the taxation to which they are subjected, would be by adding an additional duty upon those goods, which would be no hardship to any class.

6812. You mean an additional import duty on dry goods?—Yes.

6813. Those dry goods being very much increased in amount?—Exceedingly.

6814. And chiefly introduced in consequence of the increased demand for luxuries on the part of the negroes?—Precisely; they have quadrupled in consumption.

6815. When you say that the taxes bear chiefly on the landed proprietors, you mean on the planters?—Yes.

6816. Being in short, duties bearing upon them indirectly?—They bear upon them in the most direct manner I believe the taxation to amount to 15 per cent. upon the estimated income.

6817. But not direct taxation upon land?—Yes; the freehold is valued, and the annual income from that freehold is estimated at six per cent. upon the value of it; that income is then rated at so much in the pound, according to the exigencies of the country.

6818. Does that taxation press upon all landholders, large and small?—Not small; persons having only an acre or two do not feel it; in fact, my impression is that the valuation did not extend to them.

6819. Do you think it desirable that a larger tax should be levied on the land of such a nature as to fall upon the negro population as well as the planter?—I am exceedingly averse, from an intimate knowledge of the negro character, to see anything like class legislation introduced into the country; the object of it would be liable to much misconstruction, and it would be calculated to renew those bickerings and dissensions which unhappily existed, and which now most providentially have ceased; but I would suggest, as an easy remedy, the taxation of those goods, particularly luxuries, which are imported into the country, with the exception of malt liquor, to which I would give the widest circulation, with a view to the prevention of an increased use of spirits.

6820. Have you observed any disposition on the part of the negroes to an increased use of spirits?—I am sorry to say there is; but while I do not charge them with being addicted generally to the vice of drunkenness, I fear it will increase.

6821. Then the Committee are to understand that you are opposed to any change in the system of taxation which should make it bear directly upon the provision-grounds of the negro, and thereby render it more difficult for him to assume an independent station?—My objections are not based upon the hindrance that it would be to his assuming a more elevated station in the scale of society, but upon the circumstances I have referred to, that such a measure would be liable to misconstruction, and that it might excite thereby differences and dissensions which have now happily ceased.

6822. On

6822. On the other hand, you admit that in the present state of Jamaica, it is indispensable to the welfare of the colony that some remedy should be resorted to with a view to the improvement of the present state of the planters?—I am painfully alive to the necessity of a remedial measure.

6823. Do you think such a plan as has been hinted at of taxation of the land occupied by the negroes would have that tendency, by making it necessary for them to resort more continuously to labour?—I consider that the plan suggested would not conduce to the prosperity of the island; probably not even in a pecuniary respect would the measure be productive, inasmuch as the tax would be exceedingly expensive and difficult in its collection.

6824. Why would it be more difficult of collection than any other tax?—At present the collector of taxes receives his taxes by the hundred pounds from the extensive proprietors, but in collecting taxes from persons of the class of labourers, the negroes, he would have to expend weeks and weeks in collecting it from the tract of country they extended over; and if they chose to offer any opposition or delay of payment, it would be very difficult to enforce it.

6825. Do you think it would be expedient in the present state of Jamaica that this heavy amount of taxation should bear entirely upon the depressed planter and in no degree upon the prosperous negro?—I think it most highly inexpedient, and I have suggested the remedy of increased duties upon the importation of goods; I would also suggest an increased taxation on horses kept for the purposes of use, be that use what it may; they would be easily reached.

6826. Have you of late years at all increased the use of machinery in Jamaica?—The use of the plough has become more universal since the recent great organic changes than it was previously; but beyond that, and the application of the harrow in the stiff soils of the country, I do not see that there is much to be done by the increased use of machinery in the country; the use of the harrow on many of the lighter soils is found to be prejudicial where the sun is so very hot as to deprive the soil of all stamina with considerable exposure.

6827. Has the increased use of the plough tended to decrease manual labour?—It has.

6828. But you do not see any other respect in which machinery could be further introduced into Jamaica?—Not to any important object; I believe that our furnaces for the manufacture of our produce admit of improvement, looking to what I have seen in this country; but with every desire to see the use of machinery extended, I am not prepared to say that we could gain any great deal from its extension.

6829. Do you desire to lay before this Committee a detailed statement of the ordinary expenses and charges incurred on a sugar plantation?—I have prepared such a statement exhibiting the results of the management of a sugar estate, carried on with a view to produce 120 hogsheads of sugar under the circumstances of having a continuous supply of labour at the present rates now paid in that island. I have also shown the capital invested upon which the return here stated would be obtained.

6830. Does that statement include the public and parochial taxes?—It does; every item of expense to which a sugar plantation is subjected.

6831. What do they amount to?—They amount to 160 *l.* sterling.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

(Pro-forma) ACCOUNT CURRENT of a *Jamaica* Sugar Property.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.
To cost of cultivation of 35 acres of plant canes, at 7 *l.* 18 *s.* per acre	276	10	–
– ditto ditto of 35 acres of ratoons, or second cuttings, at 2 *l.* 17 *s.* per acre	99	15	–
– ditto ditto of 35 acres of second ratoons, at 2 *l.* 17 *s.* per acre	99	15	–
– erection and maintenance of fences for the above	40	–	–
– cost of manufacture of 120 hogsheads of sugar, at 4 *l.*	480	–	–
– ditto of 50 puncheons of rum, at 2 *l.*	100	–	–
– carriage of 120 hogsheads, at 4 *s.* £. 24 – –			
– ditto 50 puncheons, at 3 *s.* 7 10 –			
	31	10	–
– cost of maintenance of pastures	60	–	–
– salaries of four headsmen, at 22 *l.* 10 *s.*, and no rent charged	90	–	–

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	£.	s.	d.
To wharfage on produce and supplies	50	–	–
– export duty on ditto	15	–	–
– cost of attending live stock	70	–	–
– manager's salary	120	–	–
– salaries of two book-keepers, or overseers under him, at 40 *l.*	80	–	–
– cost of his establishment	200	–	–
– taxes	160	–	–
– iron and wood hoops, nails, oil, tallow, paints, pump-leather, tacks, rivets, tools, rope, iron, lead, and pewter	90	–	–
– staves and heading	60	–	–
– other lumber	40	–	–
– maintenance of live stock	144	–	–
– ditto of buildings, machinery, and utensils	120	–	–
– stamps, postages, messengers, and other petty charges	10	–	–
– insurance on buildings	30	–	–
– agent's salary	100	–	–
	2,566	10	–
To Balance	773	10	–
£.	3,340	–	–

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.
By sale of 120 hogsheads of sugar, weighing 15 cwt. nett each, at 60*s.* per cwt. gross £. 5,400 – –			
Deduct duty, freight, and charges 3,060 – –	2,340	–	–
By sale of 50 puncheons of rum and 90 gallons, at 4*s.* 10*d.* £. 1,087 10 –			
Less; freight and charges, 10*d.* 187 10 –	900	–	–
By house and ground rent from 40 tenants, at an average of 2 *l.* each	80	–	–
– four old cattle, sold off at 5 *l.* each	20	–	–
£.	3,340	–	–

The prefixed Account represents the ordinary return of a well-conducted property, but no one concern within my knowledge (and my acquaintance with the colony is general), has produced such results in the last three years; the produce, from the unavoidable neglect of, and derangement in the cultivation, not coming up to a half of what, under other and more favourable circumstances, it would have amounted to.

The annexed statement of the costs of the lands, buildings, live stock, implements of husbandry, and utensils of manufacture, will show the returns the above sum of 773 *l.* 10 *s.*, in favour of the estate, would afford.

	£.	s.	d.
200 acres of cane land, original cost and clearing, at 10 *l.* per acre	2,000	–	–
300 acres of pasture, original cost of clearing and establishing in grass, at 10 *l.* per acre	3,000	–	–
100 acres of wood land, for provision grounds for labourers, at 4 *l.* per acre	400	–	–
Buildings: comprising the requisite works, dwelling-houses, &c.	5,000	–	–
Machinery of mill	900	–	–
Boiling-house utensils	550	–	–
Still-house, ditto	1,200	–	–
100 cattle, at 12 *l.*	1,200	–	–
20 mules, at 18 *l.*	360	–	–
4 carts, at 24 *l.*	96	–	–
A waggon	100	–	–
Tradesmen's tools	120	–	–
£.	12,926	–	–

It may be stated that such a property is, in many instances, so depreciated in value, as to be purchaseable for less than half the above sum.

6832. Are you of opinion that it would be possible to diminish the expenses of cultivation?—During a prolonged career as agent in that country, in very trying times, I have been driven by my constituents to try every possible expedient; and no practical expedient that I could have recourse to has been left untried

untried by me to diminish the expenses of sugar and coffee plantations. I consider that the great fault of the present management is what may be called the hand to mouth system of management, which does not provide so perfectly for the future as merely with a view to immediate wants.

6833. Are the Committee to understand that your opinion is, that there is no respect in which the expense of the cultivation of a sugar estate could be very materially reduced?—Certainly.

6834. You said in your former examination that you had visited Cuba; have you been also at Porto Rico?—No.

6835. When you were at Cuba, did you direct your attention to the expenses of sugar cultivation there?—I did not direct my attention to the details of sugar cultivation, but I had frequent intercourse with men engaged in planting, and in the commercial affairs of that country: and I made myself acquainted with the mode of procedure, and the prices at which their produce was then sold, and what were the average prices of the produce in those countries.

6836. Have you directed your attention at any period since the commencement of freedom, to the important question of the comparative cost of producing sugar in a state of freedom, and in a state of slavery?—I have, since my visit to Cuba, given considerable attention to the cost at which produce is being raised there now, and I am perfectly acquainted with what it is raised at in Jamaica.

6837. Under existing circumstances in Jamaica, there is of course, no doubt that the slave-grown produce is much the cheaper of the two?—Probably the Committee will allow me an opportunity of stating what slavery is in Cuba, with a view to its bearing upon this question, inasmuch as it shows under what circumstances it is produced; I ascertained beyond a doubt, from persons engaged in sugar estates and coffee plantations in Cuba, that a negro imported into that country, was worn out and killed in seven years. In crossing the island one Sunday, I saw the negroes driven in gangs by the whip, and they were at work upon that day; the plough was at work also; I visited an estate upon that day, and the negroes upon it were engaged in making bricks. I ascertained from one of the most extensive merchants in the country, having considerable plantations, that as many as 500 men were worked on one estate, without a single female upon it; those men being shut up in barracks at night, and bloodhounds trained to catch black persons, being then let loose after the slaves were locked up.

6838. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Where were those negroes imported from?—From Africa. Under such circumstances, I cannot fancy that ever free-labour sugar can and will be brought into competition with the produce of slave labour, but if it is, I am prepared to state on what terms it can be.

6839. *Chairman.*] Will you state your views upon that subject?—I have calculated very minutely the smallest possible amount at which sugar can be raised in Jamaica; and provided there is continuous labour, and a due return of labour for the present amount of wages given, that sum is 26*s.* per cwt. Looking at the current rate of produce of Cuba, which is 10*s.* per cwt., and the certainty of its advance 2*s.* upon its admission into this country, the two articles can only be brought into fair competition in this market by adding the difference of the cost of produce in Cuba and the difference of the cost of production in Jamaica, which would be 14*s.* as a differential duty.

6840. You were conversant with all the details of the cultivation of sugar during the period of slavery in Jamaica?—I was.

6841. Supposing that any changes could be effected, of such a nature as to give the planters in Jamaica the benefit of continuous labour, at fair and moderate wages, what is your opinion as to what would be the comparative cost of free-grown and of slave-grown sugar under those circumstances?—I have already stated that I should not wish to see the labourers in Jamaica with a smaller amount of wages than they enjoy at present, but I should wish to see them giving such a day's work as is performed here, and to have such a supply of labour as to prevent the severe injury which arises from the withdrawal of hands frequently from the cultivation of the fields. Sugar could only be raised at 26*s.* per cwt., with those advantages, which I have stated, of continuous labour, and a due return of labour for the wages paid.

6842. What do you estimate the cost per cwt. to have been, including all the

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expenses during slavery?—From 8*s.* to 10*s.* in the island beyond the supplies from this country which cost from 3*s.* to 4*s.* more.

6843. Does that include every possible cost connected with obtaining and supporting the slave population?—No; the supplies from this country which were sent in a great degree for the use of the slaves would bring the cost per cwt. in some instances up to 4*s.* more, and in some instances to 5*s.* and 7*s.*; it varied exceedingly from the nature of the estates.

6844. But still the cost per cwt. would be very materially lower at that period than the lowest estimate of what it could be produced for at present?—Most certainly.

6845. What in your opinion is the principal cause of the present difficulties of the Jamaica planter?—I consider that the great source of his difficulties is not so much the want of population, as their having been habituated to depend for support during slavery upon the cultivation of ground provisions, to which they have now frequently recourse in place of culivating the estates. They have been habituated to that system, and I consider it impossible in any way to stop them.

6846. Your answer is understood to be, that you consider want of labour to be the chief cause of the difficulty?—Precisely; arising from the circumstances I have stated.

6847. But the want of labour which you have described, it is presumed from what you have just said as to there not being a want of population, arises from the want of continuous labour on the part of the negroes there more than from the want of a greater number of labourers?—Precisely.

6848. Therefore your opinion is, that if the labourers, at all events, in that part of the island with which you are connected would work continuously, there would not be a want of any great additional number?—No.

6849. In your opinion, does that answer apply to the whole of Jamaica?—It does. I have a very general knowledge of the whole island, but it applies in a less degree to the parishes in the district of Vere and Trelawney than any other in the island, as they are less favourable than the others for the growth of provisions.

6850. Then your opinion is, that if, by possibility, means could be devised of inducing the existing population to work industriously, that would be the best remedy for the existing evil?—If any means could be devised most certainly, but I utterly despair of any; nor would it be reasonable to expect that any justifiable means could be applied.

6851. Entertaining that opinion, what is the remedy which you would suggest?—An augmentation of the population, from a suitable quarter, of a description of people inured to the climate.

6852. By the words, "from a suitable quarter," it is presumed that you mean of African origin?—Precisely so.

6853. To what extent would you suggest that such immigration should take place?—I have stated that I have a very general knowledge of the island, and I have given very great consideration to this matter, and I beg to hand in a statement, based upon the views which I have been led to entertain by the consideration of it.

6854. Will you have the goodness to read it?—I beg to preface it by remarking, that persons brought from the quarter I suggest, would not take to the cultivation of provisions upon their arriving in that country upon their receiving liberal wages.

[*The Witness read the Statement as follows:*]

STATEMENT showing the Number of Emigrants required in the Island of *Jamaica*.

The number of Sugar Plantations, in round numbers, is			800
Unfit for cultivation	100		
With sufficient hands, and only requiring the introduction of a better system of labour	100 =		200
			600
Of these are,			
First Class	120		
And require, each, additional hands	70 =		8,400

Second

Second Class		180	
Each requiring additional hands to the extent of		40 =	7,200
Third Class		300	
Each requiring additional hands to the extent of		30 =	9,000
TOTAL required to maintain Sugar Cultivation			24,600
The Number of Coffee Properties, in round numbers, is		400	
Worn out and unfit to go on	100		
With sufficient hands, and only requiring the introduction of a better system of labour	100 =	200	
		200	
Of these, are			
First Class	90		
And require additional hands, at the rate of	70 =	6,300	
Second Class	110		
Requiring additional hands at the rate of	30 =	3,300 =	9,600
TOTAL of Emigrants required			34,200

The estimated cost of whom, as fixed by two cargoes brought from Sierra Leone in the past year, is 6 *l.* 10 *s.* each.

Total £. 222,300

6855. Is it your opinion, after giving attention to the subject, that 6 *l.* 10 *s.* per head would be the minimum expense at which labourers could be introduced from Africa?—I can only state that in the cargoes introduced, the most extreme regard was had to their comfort, and the Commissioners who conducted the enterprise stated that to be the expense in their communications to the Government.

6856. Have you considered how far it is practicable to introduce any large number of immigrants from North America?—Yes; I have been there and given my attention to the subject.

6857. What is your opinion upon that subject?—A disposition was evinced on the part of the liberated slaves in the Northern States of America to remove to the West Indies and to Jamaica, but unfortunately for that island, an agent representing Trinidad offered incomparably higher wages than could be afforded in Jamaica; some very exceptionable characters, composing the first cargoes to Trinidad returned to America and gave absurd accounts of the dangers to be encountered from snakes and reptiles in some of the islands; but I still have hopes of a supply of labour being had from that country, and I consider that nothing should be left undone to obtain it.

6858. Have you reason to think that there is a large supply to be obtained from that quarter for any part of the West Indies?—There is a large number of the coloured population in the Northern States of America in a very degraded condition, and my wonder is that they do not remove to countries where they would be treated as other men are.

6859. What would be the expense per head of removing workmen from North America to Jamaica?—Certainly under what they could be supplied for from Sierra Leone.

6860. Have you ascertained how much under?—I have not.

6861. Nevertheless whatever the calculated cost may be, the sum required for such a number as you have indicated would be immensely large; how do you propose that the expense should be defrayed?—Of the 222,300 *l.* the whole amount of the expense of the immigration, I think the immigrants should repay a moiety of the expense incurred, and that the Government and the colony should subscribe an equal sum each to meet the balance and the charge attendant on the removal of children.

6862. How do you propose that the immigrants themselves should repay the moiety?—By the deduction of a small per centage upon the produce of their labour.

6863. In the meantime the sum to be advanced by the colony?—Yes.

6864. When you distinguish the Government and the colony, do you mean the Government at home?—The Government of this country.

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6865. You would propose that the Government of the country should pay one-fourth and the colony one-fourth, and that the immigrants themselves should pay one moiety, to be gradually deducted from their wages?—Precisely so; and my grounds for coming to that conclusion, which have particular reference to immigrants from Africa, are the great difference in their wages between what they receive in Sierra Leone and in Jamaica, and the increased comforts they would derive upon their removal to Jamaica.

6866. You contemplate that this payment of the moiety by the immigrants should be done with their own consent?—Clearly so; I would not only propose but suggest the most rigorous provisions on the part of the Government for that purpose.

6867. Do not you think that the tendency of such an arrangement would be to check the immigration, and to create a feeling of alarm on the part of the immigrants?—I should fear that this country would not be disposed to incur all the expense, and I am bound to say that the island of Jamaica is unable to bear it.

6868. You see a great difficulty in providing for the great expense of such an extensive immigration, and that is the best mode you can think of, of meeting the difficulty?—Yes.

6869. The general tendency of your evidence is, that this large immigration is to be looked upon as not the best remedy, but, as in your judgment, the best practical remedy?—It is the only practical remedy; I would suggest also the captured negroes being sent to Jamaica, and communications opened with a neighbouring island.

6870. At the same time you are of opinion that if any means could be devised of making the existing population work industriously, that would be the best remedy?—Certainly; but I know of no such means.

6871. What effect do you anticipate would be produced upon the existing creole population, by the introduction of this large number of immigrants?—I do not consider that there would be any great effect, one way or the other, produced upon them, either in their physical or social condition.

6872. Do not you anticipate that one effect which would result from this increased competition must be a diminution of their wages?—Not a diminution of their wages, I should not desire to see that; all that I should desire established is an adequate return in labour for the wages given, and I [illegible] that would be one good effect of the introduction of additional hands.

6873. That would be virtually a diminution of the wages, because you get more labour for the wages paid?—Yes.

6874. And you think that would be the effect of an extensive immig[illegible]—I do not doubt it for an instant.

6875. Do you think it might be possible, that after this introduction [illegible] immigrants, there would still be a deficiency of labour from the same causes continuing to operate, which have now created a difficulty, namely, the retirement of the labouring classes to independent stations?—No, I do not think so; I consider that the introduction of the number of immigrants I have stated, well received, well treated, and well paid, would secure lasting prosperity to the island.

6876. You think 34,000 would be the least quantity that would answer the purpose?—Perfectly; any number would, so far as it went, alleviate the sufferings of the planters.

6877. In the 34,000, do you include both sexes?—I do, efficient labourers.

6878. But supposing anything should lead to a return to industrious habits on the part of the negroes, that 34,000 would be a surplus population?—I do not know any country where the welfare of such a population, under any circumstances, could be more perfectly secured.

6879. Fresh land might be brought into cultivation?—To any extent; and the consumption of the manufactures of this country greatly increased by persons having the means of purchasing them.

6880. Do you think it would be impossible to find any remedy for the existing difficulty in any change in the law with regard to the relation between master and labourer?—I should contemplate with extreme anxiety any change in the laws, that is to say, any attempt to render the laws more stringent with regard to the labourer than they now are.

6881. You would object to any alteration of the law for the purpose of facilitat-

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ing the making of contracts?—Every possible facility exists for making fair contracts, and I desire nothing more.

6882. Would it not be possible to procure a law that might have the effect of compelling more continuous labour when work has once been commenced?—No, I do not think so; the very enactment of such a law would deter the negro from entering into the contracts he now does.

6883. Is it not in the power of the planters themselves to make the labourers more dependent than they are upon the result of their own industry, by limiting the advantages which they derive from their provision grounds?—Any attempt on the part of the planters to do so would drive the whole population of the island to purchase lands.

6884. Have the whole population got the means of purchasing lands?—They would direct their attention towards that object, and very soon acquire the means of doing so.

6885. When they had purchased lands, would they be quite independent of labour?—Not quite independent so far as the system of settling by negroes has yet gone, for they have made, most generally a wretched selection of lands.

6886. You think that a limitation by the planters of the great advantages which the labourers derive from their provision grounds might be desirable, but that it would be very dangerous?—Yes.

6887. You would be afraid of such a remedy?—Certainly; I would not attempt it.

6888. You do not think it would be unjust towards the labourers?—Most certainly not, although I am quite alive to the consideration that property has its duties as well as its rights.

6889. What is your opinion as to the present increase of the population by natural means?—I consider that notwithstanding that a great many deaths have taken place in consequence of the negroes not calling in medical aid, the population is upon the increase, and will increase.

6890. In a large ratio?—Yes; if they could only be induced to call in medical aid in case of sickness; in a country where diseases are of a very violent nature and of short duration, and run their course in a few days, and prove mortal, I should not despair of seeing the population double in the next 30 years.

6891. Do you find that the young people, as they grow up, are willing to engage in field labour?—That I consider is the worst feature in our prospects at this moment; that the young persons are not brought up to industrious habits, nor does the education that has been given to them generally embrace training with a view to industrious habits.

6892. In what way do you suppose those young persons would be able to maintain themselves without industrious habits?—It is very difficult to contemplate that. By merely restricting themselves to the absolute necessaries of life, their sustenance is a matter very easily obtained.

6893. Is there not on the part of the negro population generally a great desire to carry their condition far beyond the enjoyment of the mere necessaries of life?—On the part of the adult population there is an extraordinary desire. Those persons were brought up to habits of industry as slaves; they were trained to it in their infancy, and in their maturer years, and labour to them is comparatively a habit which sits lightly upon them; it is not so with the growing population.

6894. Do not you suppose that it is almost a matter of course that the rising generation will inherit the same tendencies in that respect, that their predecessors have shown?—Their predecessors were subject to coercion in early life, and through life, and habits of industry were enforced by coercion and discipline; the young persons are not subjected to the same course, and I say with much regret, that they do not apply themselves to labour; I wish I could say otherwise.

6895. The question referred rather to the desire evinced by the adult population for an increase of the comforts and luxuries of life?—The adult population do evince a great desire for an increase of the comforts and luxuries of life.

6896. In fact they have evinced a great desire for improvement in civilisation in all respects?—They have, most certainly.

6897. Have you any reason to doubt that the next generation will inherit those tendencies?—I have had opportunities of seeing instances in other countries, where industry has been lost sight of, and where the population are fond of luxury and comfort, and I am sorry to say, do not base their fortunes or

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means of subsistence to that extent upon industrious habits that they do in other countries with which I am acquainted, and I dread the same results in Jamaica, and that in consequence the morals of the people might suffer, and they would be given to trickery and precarious means of obtaining a subsistence, in place of the industry by which their forefathers gained a livelihood.

6898. Supposing the rising generation to inherit the desire for civilisation and increased comforts, which have been evinced by the present adult population, industry would be indispensable to the attainment of those objects?—I should fear, that under their present training, unless that was remedied to a great extent, they would not apply themselves to habits of industry to acquire the comforts which their parents now enjoy.

6899. You have generally observed a disinclination to field labour amongst the rising population?—Most certainly. I regret to say that the children and young persons do not work to the same extent as the adult population do in the field.

6900. Do you think the character and habits of the negroes have undergone a material improvement since the commencement of freedom?—I consider that the negroes in Jamaica have made a more rapid advance in the scale of humanity than probably any set of persons ever did in a similar period.

6901. In all respects?—That portion of the population who were idle and profligate (for there are idle and profligate persons in all populations), and who were restrained during slavery and apprenticeship by the domestic discipline that was enforced, have been a source of annoyance by their thefts, and even killing of cattle, but the population, generally, have improved in all respects.

6902. Surely it is hardly consistent with human nature that this rapid advance should cease with the existing generation. Is it not most probable and almost certain that they will teach their children to follow the same course?—The actual state of the case is what I have stated, and the only inference I can draw from it is, that the result would be what I apprehend, to a certain extent.

6903. Do you find that the rising generation betake themselves to habits of industry in other manners than as field labourers; do they learn trades?—In the period of slavery the negroes were particularly desirous of having the children put to trades, but I cannot bring to my mind an instance of their applying to have their children apprenticed to artizans latterly.

6904. Those negroes who betake themselves to trades, and seek their livelihood as artizans, do well in Jamaica?—Exceedingly well; in no country better.

6905. You spoke of the number of deaths which take place in the state of freedom: have you found in the part of Jamaica in which you have resided that the supply of medical men has very much diminished?—Very much. I think one-half have left the island, or retired from practice.

6906. Have you found any indisposition on the part of the negroes to pay for medical attendance?—Yes, certainly.

6907. Is that from want of confidence on their part in the medical practitioners?—I might have attributed it in some degree to a want of confidence, but for this circumstance, that in several cases of valuable men and women having been taken ill they most readily received the attentions of a medical adviser, paid for by myself, and expressed themselves most grateful for the boon.

6908. But it has not been the custom in Jamaica since the commencement of freedom to provide gratuitous medical attendance for the labourers as part of their allowances?—At the desire of one of my constituents, Sir John Macdonald, the adjutant-general, I provided for two or three years a medical man to attend the people on his properties, but they seemed to disregard it; they were asked for no return, nor would they have given any; in almost every instance I desired to retain the medical men, and proposed such terms to the people, but in no one instance have they received the proposition. I went farther; I desired them to select their own medical man, but they disregarded the proposition.

6909. Are the means of religious and general instruction abundant in the part of Jamaica with which you are acquainted?—Yes; I think, as far as I can ascertain, there is a clergyman at this moment in Jamaica for each 1,900 persons.

6910. Do you mean a clergyman of the Church of England, or a minister of some denomination?—No; I ought to say, distinctly and unhesitatingly, that the various missionary bodies have been mainly instrumental in reclaiming the negro

negro population from Paganism, and it is under their care that the black population generally now are.

6911. You mean that there is a minister of some denomination for every 1,900 persons?—Yes.

6912. They are almost universally Christians, are they not?—When I went to the island first, which was in 1819, I do not think one-half of the people were nominally Christians; they are all now Christians, with the exception, probably, of some few decrepit persons, who are not able to go to church to receive baptism; and I may say that concubinage, which was universal, is now quite the exception.

6913. Are schools abundant upon the estates of which you have charge?—Not upon the estates, but in the immediate vicinity of the properties.

6914. Is it that the whole population have the means of education?—Yes; I have been instrumental myself in some concerns with which I am connected in establishing churches and schools, aided by large donations from the proprietors.

6915. In those cases is it necessary for the negro to pay a proportion of the expense of educating his child?—I am sorry to say that it too generally is not the case for the negro to pay, but I hope most earnestly that they will in every instance be made to pay.

6916. Do you think there is a willingness on their part to pay if they were required to do so?—Persons that have had the care of schools have told me that they do pay, but that they seem shamed into paying; that there is not that promptitude in paying for education that there is for the necessaries of life. It cannot be expected from persons who scarcely understand the value of education.

6917. Sir *C. Douglas.*] There have been unprecedented droughts during the last three years in Jamaica?—Unprecedented but partial droughts.

6918. Have they affected the provision grounds of the labourers as well as the estates of the employers?—In the district of Trelawney, Vere, and St. Dorothy's, they have affected them to some extent.

6919. Have large quantities of flour and beef been imported to meet the deficiency in the supply of provisions caused by the drought?—A very large quantity.

6920. Have those droughts greatly affected the prices of provisions throughout the island?—During a few months, but the growth of provisions is so rapid in that country, being also uninterrupted throughout the year, that the prices soon fall.

6921. Who are the principal growers of provisions for the use of the island?—The negro population entirely.

6922. Can you furnish the Committee with the scale or tariff of labour adopted in Jamaica, which regulates the day's work?—I presume that the question alludes to the scale introduced at the suggestion of Sir Lionel Smith; it varies in every district in the island; in St. Thomas's-in-the-Vale the negro was called upon under that scale to clean 10 to 12 chains of canes, and to dig 80 cane-holes and so on; and under that scale the crops fell from 98,000 hogsheads in the year 1832, the last favourable year of slavery, to 50,000 hogsheads in 1838, the last year of apprenticeship.

6923. What were the wages paid for a day's labour of a hired labourer during the period of slavery?—During the period of slavery the task was greater than what it was possible to exact in the limited time which the negro was worked in the apprenticeship; I have known, during periods of great emergency, as much as 2*s.* paid, but that was only for work that was done by hired labourers; and the price of their labour was not fixed so much by the intrinsic value of it as by the combination of the owners of the jobbing gangs who owned those labourers, who combined together in a particular district and demanded a particular amount; and such was the requisition for labour that they were enabled to fix those high rates: I have known it for a long course of time as low as 1*s.* sterling for nine or ten hours' labour, and I have known at other times, when produce was exceedingly high, as much as 2*s.*

6924. Was that exclusive of the usual allowances made to the apprentices?—The planter gave them no allowance; occasionally, if they were doing good work he might give them a little rum and sugar.

6925. As you have a general knowledge of the whole island, can you reconcile the discrepancies that appear in the returns of recent date with reference to

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the important point whether labour can be obtained or not; there are some magistrates that give a most decided opinion that it can be obtained, others say that it cannot; as you are acquainted with some seven or eight parishes, can you give the Committee any information upon that subject?—It is an exceedingly delicate question, but I shall endeavour to answer it, as I feel it an important one. The properties in Jamaica are managed by agents; those magistrates, in a great degree, receive their impressions from the agents; it is exceedingly natural for agents in charge of properties to make it appear that the concerns under them are doing well, inasmuch as their advancement in life depends upon it, and their feelings of course run that way.

6926. Do you think that those different accounts result partly from erroneous representation, and partly from the different localities to which they refer?—I do not think the difference of locality has much to do with it. Having made a remark which bears upon the class to which I belong myself, I ought to state that persons have held the office of magistrate who have had to quit [illegible]er professions.

6927. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Supposing that this intelligence can be proved in some instances to have proceeded from proprietors resident upon their own properties, and managing their own properties, do you think that their testimony would not be open to the same objection as that which you have just now stated?—I have known many instances of men fancying their own affairs to be proceeding in the most prosperous manner, when they were taking the very reverse course; and there are no circumstances under which a man can be placed, so likely to deceive him as when engaged in the management of a West India estate; his hopes at one time may be greatly excited, and then blasted in the course of a few weeks.

6928. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You spoke of the "hand-to-mouth system," do you mean by that, want of capital?—No, certainly not; but that agents, urged by their principals here to pursue most rigorous and unflinching economy, have, in some instances, I am afraid, overlooked that care of the capital which is indispensably necessary to the future well-being of the estate.

6929. It was stated by a witness, that the number of immigrants required would be 50,000, and that the expense of importing them would be 12*l.* a piece. From what you have stated, it appears that this is not your opinion?—I would merely refer the Committee to the facts upon which my statements are based.

6930. You consider that it could not possibly be expected that the home Government should pay the whole expense?—It ought to be expected, inasmuch as it is by the legislation of the Home Government, that we have been reduced from a state of high prosperity to our present prostrate condition, (not that I am a champion of slavery) and the very principle of emancipation is at stake in our prostrate condition.

6931. With respect to your proposition of the immigrants themselves paying a moiety, and the home Government, and the colony, each paying a share of the 222,000*l.*, have you communicated with other persons in the island, who are capable of forming an opinion upon such an important subject; have you communicated that as the result of your consideration upon the subject?—I have.

6932. Are there many who have agreed with you upon that?—Not many; but I found none that opposed it; I submitted it to one or two gentlemen. It is a suggestion of my own, emanating from myself, and I do not believe that it would be approved of generally.

6933. You do not apprehend that persons in authority, members of the House of Assembly or others, would be likely to participate in those views?—The matter was not discussed in its details, but they stated no objections to it.

6934. *Chairman.*] Have any of the members of the House of Assembly or persons in authority, expressed their approbation of your scheme?—None have expressed decided approbation, and I believe that the general feeling of persons in authority would be rather against it; I am not aware that such a measure has ever been discused in the Assembly, or that it has received the least sanction from any member of that body.

6935. Sir *C. Douglas.*] What proportion of females do you contemplate in the 34,000?—An equal proportion.

6936. You stated that you thought the population was increasing to so great

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an extent that it would probably double in 30 years, but that you did not think that the facility of getting labour would gradually increase, because you said the young persons were not trained up to industrious habits; but you stated that religious education was very much gaining ground in Jamaica; do not you think the tendency of religious education would be to instil industrious habits into the population?—If they were trained to industrious habits, in conjunction with religious education; but I believe, from all experience and from all my observation, that unless persons are trained to industrious habits, any education, however religious, will fall short of rendering them habitually industrious or unexceptionable in their lives. I do not undervalue religious education, but I believe most firmly, and my belief is confirmed by my experience and observation, that religious education, unaccompanied by industrious habits, is of comparatively little avail among a labouring population.

6937. *Chairman.*] Is not the tendency of religious education to instil industrious habits?—It is not accompanied in Jamaica by training in industrial habits generally; scarcely at all.

6938. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Surely religious instruction involves the inculcation of industrious habits, does it not?—It is not alone the inculcation of the necessity of industrious habits that will render a person industrious, in my estimation; it is the absolute and practical training of a person in industrious habits that will render him so.

6939. Sir *C. Douglas.*] What proofs have you that those young persons will not work?—Universally throughout the island in place of having boys and girls from 12 to 15 and 16 years of age in the fields, we have no proportion of those.

6940. The children that were emancipated will not be 14 till next August?—Even the young persons that were at work have to a great degree withdrawn themselves.

6941. Do they assist their parents in any way?—Very slightly; not at all to the extent they ought to enable me to call them given to industrious habits.

6942. Do you mean that in your opinion all the youthful population of Jamaica are now being brought up in a state of such positive idleness that their life is nothing more than sensuality; that they live like beasts, and do nothing whatever?—They attend to their domestic duties; but I mean in the most unqualified manner to state that the rising population of Jamaica are not only not addicted to habits of industry as cultivators of the soil, but that they are averse to it; they are not taught to be otherwise than averse to it.

6943. How can you reconcile that with that which appears to be by your own account so natural to the negroes, namely, their wish to improve themselves; and with your statement that they have made a more rapid advance in the state of humanity than any other people in the world?—I consider it in a certain degree as one of the evils incident to a change from slavery, in which state labour to a certain extent was not considered creditable, was considered as bearing the badge of slavery.

6944. Then do not you think that the religious instruction which you say is abundant at present will correct that?—I believe that a very great defect in the instruction of the young people, and the only bad feature in the present course of instruction, is their not being trained to industrial habits.

6945. Is not this feeling of the population towards their employers much better than it was some years ago?—It has been so since the arrival of Sir Charles Metcalfe in the island, and the happy influence he shed by his admirable administration.

6946. Are not the prospects of the cultivation good this season, and more promising than they have been for years?—My communication with the island is constant, and I have information from almost every part of it that the present crop will approach 50,000 hogsheads, from the same properties which in 1832 (the last favourable year in the time of slavery) produced 98,000 hogsheads, and they would have yielded more but from the rebellion occurring in that year.

6947. Has the weight of a hogshead of sugar undergone any alteration in Jamaica of late years?—Certainly not.

6948. Can you state whether it is or is not the case that want of capital has been felt and has been detrimental to the island, as it regards the payment of money wages?—There has been a want of capital, and there is a growing want of capital; but I can unhesitatingly state that no inference can be more unkind

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than to suppose that the cultivation has in any degree suffered from the want of capital. The efforts and sacrifices made by the planters have been of the most painful character, and have been of the most extreme magnitude.

6949. Viscount *Chelsea.*] With reference to the aversion which you have stated to exist on the part of the rising generation to field labour, do you think that the immediate introduction of fresh labourers, either from Africa or from other quarters, would tend in any way to correct that evil with respect to the rising generation?—Most materially.

6950. In what way?—The parents of those children, from the short period they work in the field, have ample time to cultivate their provisions simultaneously with the labour which they give to the planter, and in the event of the introduction of fresh labourers, particularly a set of persons devoted entirely to the cultivation of the staple commodities of the country, the gains of the negro would be diminished, or rather he would have to give more time to the cultivation of the fields of the planter, and less to the cultivation of his own grounds, and the consequence would be, that instead of the young people having the means of subsistence provided for them, as they have at this moment, which renders them idle, they would have to provide them for themselves.

6951. Then the Committee are to understand that at present the labourers have the means of providing, not only for their own subsistence but for that of their children, at the same time devoting a considerable portion of their labour to the cultivation of their provision grounds?—Clearly and distinctly.

6952. You do not contemplate a material reduction in the rate of wages?—I contemplate no reduction; all I desire is, an adequate return for the labour; the negro at this moment only gives four and a half, or five hours for his 1*s.* 6*d.*; I should wish him to give nine hours.

6953. In many instances he labours only two or three days in a week?—In many, he does so.

6954. If he laboured continuously five days in the week, he might make the same amount of profit by a week's labour, even at lower wages, as he does at present?—I should heartily rejoice if he would labour five days in a week, or three days, but I have not the slightest hope that he will do so; he only labours at present half a day of the three days that he does work.

6955. Would it, in your opinion, be the probable result of the introduction of a large body of immigrants, to increase the amount of labour, that the labourer would give to the extent of three days in the week more than he gives at present, in order to produce for himself the same amount of profit which he now derives from his labour?—Looking at the disregard of the negro of increased profits, I do not consider that he ever can be brought to work beyond a given extent; and I would take leave to impress upon the Committee, that whereas at this moment he only works three half-days per week for the planter, devoting, in many cases, almost constantly the remaining half of the day to the cultivation of his ground or garden, if he were to be three days fully occupied in the business of the planter, he would of course have less time to cultivate his lands than he has now.

6956. Do not you think it probable that he would endeavour to derive as much profit from his labour as he does at present?—No, I do not think so; the negro will not work beyond a certain extent at a time; circumstances have shown that.

6957. *Chairman.*] Have you known many instances in which negroes only work three days in a week?—It is universal.

6958. In your part of Jamaica?—I do not consider that any negro in Jamaica averages more than three days' labour in a week.

6959. In the three days which he does work, how many hours does he work?—Four and a half to five hours.

6960. Is not that a proof that the existing rate of wages is higher than it need be?—It is higher than it need be; but there is no remedy in the hands of the planter.

6961. You have said that you do not wish to depress the rate of wages?—I do not.

6962. Is not the evidence you have now given a conclusive proof that the rate of remuneration is higher than the interests of the negro can possibly require; is it not clear that if he receives his present remuneration for three imperfect days' labour, you might reduce that remuneration by one-half, and it would be

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in the negro's power to derive the same advantages which he now enjoys, by doubling the labour he performs, and working, as every industrious man does in any other country, six days in the week?—It would be quite impracticable to reduce the wages one-half; but if the negro was made to work three whole days for the planter instead of three half days as at present, that would be sufficient; he has now three half days which he at present applies to his own purposes, after having performed the planter's task.

6963. Is there any reason why it would be unfair upon the free negro to work five or six fair days a week, as a labourer does in this country?—Certainly nothing unfair in it, if his circumstances required it.

6964. Viscount *Chelsea*.] Are there days in the week in which the labourer is totally idle?—Yes, I regret to say that there are; the women in Jamaica during slavery and apprenticeship worked in the field regularly, and now the situation of the labourers in that country being similar to that of an artizan in easy circumstances here, his wife is employed in the performance of those domestic duties that a housewife would be employed in here.

6965. Do not you think that, independently of the consideration of profit to the planter or to himself, the very fact of the labourer having the means as well as the disposition to devote one, two, or three days in the week to total idleness, is in itself injurious to his character?—Most certainly.

6966. Are the Committee to understand you have yourself in your own experience known numerous instances of negro labourers only working four hours and a half to five hours for three days in the week?—It is universal within the range of my own concerns, unless they were engaged in job-work. When they undertake piece-work they sometimes employ themselves seven or eight hours, but I regret to say that job-work is by no means general.

6967. Sir *C. Douglas*.] Have you been acquainted with many estates that have been abandoned?—Yes; not in the management of them.

6968. Have they been abandoned solely because of the want of continuous labour, or have they been abandoned from other causes, as the poverty of the soil, or being heavily mortgaged?—The properties to which I refer were not good estates, but the want of labour, and the high price of labour, was the main and moving cause of their abandonment.

6969. You have stated that the immigrants, in your opinion, would not take to the cultivation of provisions; will you state the grounds upon which you have come to that conclusion?—I consider that the cultivation of provisions by the negro is the effect of habit—a habit which was taught and encouraged to the utmost possible extent in Jamaica during slavery, but I have no apprehension that people who came to the country without any such habit, and receiving liberal, and fair, and regular wages, would have recourse to a mode of life which is more precarious, to a certain extent, than the receipt of money wages.

6970. *Chairman*.] When you talk of its being the result of habit, is it not a habit that yields a large profit to the negro?—Yes; it requires some skill and management, with which in Jamaica the negro is perfectly acquainted.

6971. And with skill and management it yields a large profit?—Yes; but that profit, if provisions were cultivated to a much larger extent, would cease to accrue, the demand being of course limited to the island.

6972. Viscount *Chelsea*.] Would you not, upon the whole, prefer the labour of the present negro population, if they could be induced to labour continuously, to that of immigrants from any quarter?—Most certainly; I consider that it entails a very considerable responsibility upon the island, carrying such a measure into effect; it will require great pains and care and assiduity to naturalise those people, to acclimatise them, and to have them comfortably settled.

6973. And you consider that the present negroes, upon the whole, possess great advantages as labourers over any other class of labourers that can possibly be introduced from any quarter into the island?—Any but America; I have seen in America negroes working who evinced a better knowledge of improved field labour than the negroes in Jamaica have.

6974. They are in general very much attached to the estates upon which they have been brought up?—In slavery, when we had to move them, which was very seldom, they evinced the greatest possible aversion to leaving the estates; but since freedom has been in existence, they have evinced little or no aversion.

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6975. What do you think that is attributable to?—They feel themselves comparatively more independent, by being upon their own lands; and I believe most sincerely that they cherish an extreme aversion to rent, as it is an element to which they are utter strangers; they do not comprehend the nature of it; they fancy that it is an exaction upon them.

6976. Do you approve of the system of allowances?—No, I would give nothing but money; money is the only mode of remunerating labour which I can recommend.

6977. *Chairman.*] You stated that the immigrants would not cultivate provision grounds?—I believe most firmly not.

6978. Why should they not?—I believe they would not form the habit; that the receipt of money wages would prevent their having recourse to it.

6979. The Committee have understood that it is a distinct and explicit part of the colonial plan of immigration, that provision grounds should be awarded to the immigrants?—It may be so; but I would not have come before this Committee had I not been prepared to give my unbiassed and unreserved opinions.

6980. The Committee are to receive it only as your own opinion as to the possible result of immigration?—Exactly. I believe that the receipt of money wages would prevent their having recourse to the cultivation of grounds to which they are to a certain extent strangers, and that they would as little think of raising provisions as the artisan here would cultivate his own potatoes.

6981. Why should not they be sensible of the advantages which the other labourers derived by the cultivation of provisions, and wish to enjoy the same?—I have stated that the cultivation of provisions, in my opinion, has been in a great degree the effect of habit.

6982. Is your opinion founded upon any experience?—Yes; I have not known any of those African negroes who have arrived in the country cultivate the ground.

6983. They have had grounds to cultivate, have they not?—If they chose.

6984. Have you had any African immigrants yourself?—No; but I have been in constant communication with those who have had, and I have not heard in any instance that they have taken to the cultivation of grounds. During the slave trade I have understood, from a gentleman who is yet alive, that it was a matter of difficulty to train them to it during the time of the slave trade.

6985. But there is no doubt that, according to the existing plan of immigration, the Africans who shall emigrate will have provision grounds at their command?—To any extent that they desire.

Captain *James Humphrey St. John*, called in; and Examined.

Captain *James H. St. John.*

6986. *Chairman.*] YOU are acquainted with the island of Jamaica?—I am.

6987. What has been the length of your residence there, and what was your occupation?—I was there 18 years and 10 months; I am an officer of the Royal Artillery, and I have been engineer and surveyor of the public works since 1831; I was also a special magistrate during the time of apprenticeship, without salary.

6988. When did you leave Jamaica?—On the 19th of November last.

6989. Had you held the appointment of colonial engineer up to the period of your quitting the island?—I had.

6990. Has your office of colonial engineer made you acquainted with all parts of the island?—All parts of the island.

6991. Has it also made you acquainted with all portions of the population?—With all.

6992. Where were you resident?—At Port Royal.

6993. Were you frequently settled for any length of time in different parts of the island?—No, never; I used to be absent for a month or three weeks at a time, going my tour round the island,

6994. You are not a proprietor?—I am not.

6995. You resided there as an officer of the royal artillery, occupied in those particular duties?—Holding a colonial civil situation.

6996. Did the duties connected with that office bring you into constant and immediate connexion with the labouring classes?—Yes.

6997. Where was it you acted as a magistrate?—For the town of Port Royal particularly, but I acted all over the island,

6998. Did

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6998. Did you act as a magistrate during freedom?—Yes, I was a local magistrate besides.

6999. Do you think the laws which you so administered are sufficient for affording redress in all possible points to both labourer and employer?—I think they are, particularly with the laws passed last session.

7000. To what laws do you advert passed last session?—The Combination Laws; I only speak from what I have read of the disputes between the masters and labourers.

7001. You have been in constant habits of intercourse with all classes of society in Jamaica?—I have.

7002. And you probably have heard of the statements which have been made before this Committee with regard to the great extent of distress on the part of the Jamaica planters?—Yes.

7003. Do you believe those statements are at all exaggerated?—I think not.

7004. From what you have observed, do you believe that at present there is great difficulty on the part of the Jamaica planter to carry on his agricultural pursuits with success and with profit?—There is great difficulty.

7005. To what do you attribute that difficulty?—Want of labour.

7006. From what causes do you think that that want of labour has proceeded?—I think the negroes are so well off that what with their provision grounds and their working three or four days in the week, they get quite sufficient to keep them, and I know that they do not perform the nine hours' work properly.

7007. Are you able to state to the Committee any fair average calculation as to the number of days' work in a week which the negro will perform?—I am not capable of judging of it upon properties, but as island engineer I had to superintend work, and they certainly did not work six days a week, at least heretofore, and very seldom five.

7008. As colonial engineer, have you been in the habit of employing a number of negro workmen?—No; everything is taken by contract, but I used to see them at work.

7009. Those contracts were performed under your authority and superintendence?—Under my inspection.

7010. Therefore they were in fact working under you?—They were.

7011. What classes of labourers had you so employed under you?—Most of them were free people formerly, but many of them were also slaves. In my capacity of island engineer, the contractors frequently came to me, and begged of me to intercede with the commissioners of public works to give them more time, in consequence of some of the labourers not doing sufficient work; not working on Monday and Saturday.

7012. What was the description of work in which they were principally employed?—Masons, carpenters, bricklayers, glaziers, and everything in short necessary to a house or public buildings.

7013. You principally employed artizans, not agricultural labourers?—Yes.

7014. Where were the men for the most part resident whom you employed?—In Kingston, Spanish Town, Montego Bay, Falmouth, Port Maria, Port Antonio, Lucea, and Morant Bay.

7015. Did those men work under the contractor by day, or by task-work?—Sometimes by task-work, but very seldom; generally by the week; they work six days a week, or should do; they contract to work six days in the week.

7016. How are they paid for those contract jobs?—Weekly.

7017. After what rate of wages are they paid?—It is so much altered of late, that I cannot say exactly what it is now; I can say what it was formerly, because in estimating at the old rate, I was always under the estimate.

7018. Are you conversant with the details of the terms upon which the workmen worked under your contractors?—I am.

7019. What were those terms up to the time you left?—A first-rate carpenter and mason would get 5*s.* a day; a second-rate about 3*s.*; a painter would get 3*s.*; a man who mixed mortar and conveyed it to the masons would get 2*s.*; and a labourer digging the foundations would get 2*s.*

7020. Had they any advantages beyond the money wages?—No other advantages.

7021. Were they paid their money wages weekly?—At the end of the week.

7022. Are the wages you have mentioned such as to enable the labourers to live in great comfort, without working six days in the week?—Yes.

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7023. How many days in the week did you generally find that the labourers would work?—A very few would work the whole six days; others would come at 12 o'clock on the Monday and go away at 12 o'clock on the Saturday; but very few would come on the Monday.

7024. How many hours of labour is it their duty to perform, on each day, for those wages?—Eight hours.

7025. Do they perform that quantity of work faithfully and well?—Sometimes they do; they perform it very well generally.

7026. When they absent themselves during the week, have you any remedy at law?—It has never been resorted to.

7027. Have you any remedy at law?—Decidedly.

7028. What would have been your course of proceeding, as a magistrate, if a contractor had complained to you that his labourers had been absent one or two days during the week?—If there was positive proof that he had broken his contract, I should say, only pay him for the days on which he worked; and I have done that frequently myself when it has been referred to me as island engineer. I have examined the man's own comrades, and if they gave it against him, I said, "Only pay him so much," and they never objected to it.

7029. Does the contractor generally stipulate the number of days in the week that he shall work?—No; the contractor says, I engage to perform so much, and finish it by such a date; and if that is not done the contractor suffers.

7030. Then provided the stipulated work is done by the stipulated time there would be no remedy for occasional absences?—No.

7031. But the class of workmen whom you have now been describing affords no criterion as to what is the practice with agricultural labourers upon the sugar estates?—No, it does not.

7032. Did you hear generally, in your progresses through the island, of great difficulty upon the estates from the want of continuous labour?—I have heard great complaints, but I have heard of some instances in which the planter said that he could get as many labourers as he wanted; but those instances were very few.

7033. What would be the best remedy, in your opinion, for the complaints which exist as to the want of labour?—I should say, an increase of labourers; competition.

7034. Have you at all considered the subject of immigration?—I have not until very lately.

7035. Did you while you were in the island?—I did just before I came away; I felt interested in it, because I had a brother-in-law who went to Sierra Leone with Mr. Barclay.

7036. What has been the result of your consideration of the subject; what number of immigrants do you think are desirable for Jamaica?—I made a calculation, that to make as much sugar as had been made in slavery, to do which they must have spells at night, it would take nearly 100,000; that is, if they worked at night; but for the present cultivation to be kept up in Jamaica, I should say it would not take half that.

7037. Are you at all disposed to think that the existing number of labourers in Jamaica would be sufficient if they could be made to labour industriously and continuously?—I think it would.

7038. Has it ever occurred to you, in the discharge of the duties in which you were engaged, that it might be desirable for the wages to be lowered, with the view to compelling more industrious habits?—I do not see how that could be done, there is no competition; it would be going back to the old times of slavery, if you obliged men to work; but so long as a man works sufficiently to feed himself and to keep him from going to the parish, I cannot think that any law would compel him to work more.

7039. Do you think that the laws with respect to contracts between masters and labourers are sufficient?—I do not think the labourer would enter into a contract; the laws are sufficient to bind him if he will enter into a contract, but he will not for more than a week.

7040. Is a contract for a week binding?—It is generally made verbally; I should consider it binding with credible witnesses.

7041. Is it common to make verbal contracts for a week?—It is common.

7042. Would not any such verbal contract contemplate the performance of at least five days' labour in a week?—Certainly.

7043. Do

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7043. Do they usually perform five days' labour?—Yes.

7044. Therefore, might they not be compelled to perform five days' labour?—Decidedly, if they agreed to it; but the planter would hardly run the risk of losing his time in going to a magistrate: he might go two or three times before he would find a magistrate at the court-house.

7045. Do you consider the rate of wages in the island too high?—I do.

7046. Do you think any remedy might be found by a change in the system of taxation; have you ever considered that subject?—I have.

7047. What in your opinion would be the effect of compelling the negro to pay a high land-tax for his provision ground?—I think it would make him extremely discontented, and I hardly think it would be just if his land was taxed higher than the proprietor's.

7048. Do not you think that the ends of justice require that the labouring man should in some way be made to give fair labour to his employer?—Certainly.

7049. Do you think it would be possible to arrive at that end by any change in the apparently unlimited system of provision grounds?—They might be restricted.

7050. Might not a rent be exacted in proportion to the quantity of provision ground occupied?—Certainly.

7051. Has ever any such attempt ever been made in Jamaica?—It has.

7052. Do you know in what instances?—I knew an instance in which a person had a quantity of very fine land, and he offered to let it to negroes at 30 *s.* an acre.

7053. Was it part of his plantation?—Part of his plantation.

7054. Was it taken at that rate?—They agreed to it, but afterwards they declined it.

7055. Do you know on what grounds they declined it?—They stated no reason; they said they were advised not to do it. It was a small property belonging to Dr. Turner, in St. Thomas's-in-the-Vale.

7056. What have you found to be the chief productions which the negroes cultivate on their own account?—Yams, cocoas, corn, all the various vegetables, fruit: sometimes a little coffee; plantains and bananas.

7057. Do they find a ready market for those productions?—In some instances they do, near the towns, a very good market.

7058. But in all instances it is saleable produce?—Always saleable; but in some spots it will fetch double what it will in others.

7059. Are you acquainted with Mr. Bernal's property?—I am.

7060. Do you know the agent of that property, Mr. M'Cook?—Very well.

7061. Were you in this committee-room when a letter was read from Mr. M'Cook?—I was.

7062. Does your experience confirm the statements made in that letter?—It does, certainly.

7063. Have you ever heard any complaints of trespassing and squatting upon unclaimed lands?—I have heard complaints of squatting.

7064. To any extent?—No.

7065. Are the Jamaica laws against squatting sufficient to check the practice if it were to prevail extensively?—Yes; I believe it is the same as the English law; you can eject them.

7066. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You said that the negroes had said that they were advised not to take the land, for which they had agreed to give 30*s.* an acre; do you know by whom they were so advised?—No, I could not speak positively; it was mere report.

7067. You said that you contemplated an immigration of 100,000 or 50,000, according to the quantity of sugar it was desirable to get; have you considered by whom the expense of that immigration should be paid?—If it was adopted by the Government taking it in hand it would be more likely to succeed, because when the peasantry saw that it was a measure done by the Government, and by Government agents, they would not look upon it with that objection which they would otherwise.

7068. Do you mean that this country should pay for it, or merely that the Government should superintend it, making regulations for it, and that the island should pay the expense?—I should think that the treasury of Jamaica could not

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afford to carry out immigration to that great extent. Having adopted all the measures that were suggested by the Government, and they not having succeeded as well as it was anticipated, I think it would be fair that they should bear a large portion of the expenses.

Jovis, 7° die Julii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Barclay.	Sir C. Douglas.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Captain *Jones Humphrey St. John*, called in; and further Examined.

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7069. *Chairman.*] IN the course of your professional engagements, have you had much intercourse with the negroes in different parts of the island?—I have.

7070. Has that intercourse been frequent and constant?—Yes.

7071. Have you directed your attention to any changes which may have been effected in the negro character, in consequence of the Act of freedom?—I have.

7072. What is your own opinion as to the changes in the negro character which have been produced by emancipation?—A most extraordinary improvement.

7073. In what respect has that improvement shown itself?—By behaving themseves better; by their not coming so frequently before a magistrate; by their attending Divine service regularly; by not living in an open state of adultery, as they used to do: and they also dress much better; we do not so frequently see negroes walking about half naked, as we used formerly.

7074. Do you find that the tendency to dress is carried to any undue or absurd extent?—It is sometimes.

7075. Do they spend a good deal of their earnings upon dress?—A great deal of money on dress.

7076. Do you think the moral character of the negro has in all respects been elevated?—Decidedly.

7077. Do you think he is a more honest man than he was formerly?—A portion of them certainly are.

7078. As a magistrate your experience has been, that fewer complaints of any kind are made against them than there used to be during the apprenticeship?—In my district the complaints have decreased nine-tenths.

7079. Do you think that a rapid and progressive improvement is still going on in the negro character?—I think so in every respect, except as to industry.

7080. And in that one respect of industry, does the want of improvement result from the fact that they are so well off as not to stand in need of industry?—Decidedly.

7081. Therefore in fact they have not the stimulus to industry which is the usual cause of industry elsewhere?—They have not.

7082. Have marriages very much increased among them?—Very much.

7083. Have you found that they enter into marriage with a sense of the importance and solemnity of the contract, and that their conduct as husbands is good after marriage?—Yes; it is generally explained to them by the different Christian ministers previous to their marriage.

7084. Has the conduct of the wives improved?—Decidedly.

7085. Are the women become more virtuous than they were formerly?—They are.

7086. As one natural result of such a state of things, is it consistent with your observation that the population is rapidly increasing by natural causes?—It is.

7087. Is

7087. Is it your opinion that the rising generation are inclined to work, or have you observed that they are more idle than their predecessors?—I think they are more idle.

7088. To what do you attribute that idleness?—I attribute it to the advice of their parents; immediately after the total freedom many of them used to say that they would not allow their children to work.

7089. Have they not found the necessity of some occupation?—Yes, in the towns; in my district they are nearly all of them tradespeople, bound apprentice to different trades.

7090. In the country how are they occupied?—I can only judge by passing through the villages; I have seen generally a number of boys playing that are quite old enough and big enough to do light work.

7091. Do they live in entire idleness?—Many of them do.

7092. Do you consider that to be under the advice of their parents?—I think it was so at first.

7093. Do you think that as they find the necessity of labour for the sake of improving their circumstances, that tendency to idleness on the part of the young people is likely to decrease?—I think it will decrease.

7094. Is not it rather inconsistent with the great improvement that you have described in the moral character of the negroes, that they should have encouraged so much idleness on the part of their offspring?—That is the only bad feature that there is about them; but they earn quite sufficient by their wages and grounds to enable them to keep their families.

7095. Have you found in any instance that while the parents are continuing to work upon the estates, they leave the cultivation of their own grounds to the young people, as a superior kind of occupation?—They do that frequently.

7096. Do you think that is one cause of the disinclination to labour for others which has shown itself on the part of the young people?—Yes,

7097. Have the religious habits of the negroes greatly improved?—Very greatly.

7098. Are they for the most part regular in their attendance upon Divine worship?—They are generally; the vicious and bad do not attend, but a great number that did not attend formerly do now.

7099. But still there are numerous exceptions to that?—There are.

7100. Do you find that those persons who are regular in their attention to Divine worship, and are more immediately under the care of religious ministers than others, are more prone than others to teach their children industrious habits?—They are. I may mention that during the whole time I was a special magistrate, I had 2,000 cases before me; 1,000 were settled amicably out of court, and I never awarded a sentence against any one that could be called a good religious man, that was an acknowledged member either of the Established Church, or of the Baptist or Wesleyan.

7101. Do you think the religious part of the negroes, those most attentive to religious observances, are those most willing to give regular work to their employers?—I think they are; those who are really religious, who are not shamming.

7102. Do you think there is a considerable portion of the negroes who are attending Divine worship, either from mere habit, or from a desire of display, rather than from religious impressions?—There are a few who may attend from personal display, but I think the great majority do it from a religious feeling.

7103. You think that generally speaking there is an increasing amount of real sense of the importance of religion, and of attachment from proper motives to religious observances?—Decidedly.

7104. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You said that at first the parents prevented the children from working, and encouraged habits of idleness; do you mean to imply that they do not do so now to the same degree?—They do not do so to the same degree. I have heard women in my own presence say that their children should not work; that was at the first commencement of freedom.

7105. But now that is not the case to the same extent?—Not to the same extent.

7106. Should not you think that the fondness for dress and finery, and other luxuries, would naturally induce them to be more industrious, for the sake of gratifying those desires?—I should imagine so, but still a negro can earn as much by his provision grounds as he can want for dress.

JAMAICA.

W. Christie, Esq.

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William Christie, Esq. called in; and Examined.

7107. *Chairman.*] YOU are acquainted with the colony of Jamaica?—Yes.

7108. What was your occupation, and how long has your residence been in the island?—I was there about 15 years, during the period from 1816 to 1836; I was engaged as a merchant factor, and was connected with the management of estates. I have not been there since 1836 till this year, when I was there 10 weeks.

7109. What was your occupation during those 10 weeks?—I was travelling through the country, visiting several properties.

7110. Are you the proprietor of any estates in Jamaica?—I am the proprietor of three sugar estates in Jamaica.

7111. Did you visit those estates during those 10 weeks?—I did.

7112. Who has the charge and care of those estates?—One estate in St. Andrew's under the charge of Porteous, Carson & Co., and two estates in Hanover under the charge of Mr. Parke.

7113. Did you direct your attention to the state of the labouring population on your estates during that short residence?—I did.

7114. What did you find to be the practice with regard to the occupation of houses and lands by your labourers?—They occupy a house and land; paying rent for the house and rent for the land, about 1*s.* each.

7115. Will you state the terms upon which they occupy those houses, and what the rents are which they pay?—An able-bodied labourer, for himself and family, pays 1*s.* a week for the house, and the same rent for an acre of land.

7116. Do you mean that an acre of land is the quantity of provision ground which you usually allow your negroes to occupy?—Yes.

7117. Then you have not adopted the custom which appears to prevail elsewhere, of giving unlimited provision grounds; limited only by the desire of the negro?—No.

7118. You give each man an acre?—Yes; each family.

7119. And exact 1*s.* a week for that acre?—Yes.

7120. Do you consider that to be a full and sufficient rent?—I am afraid it is too much; more than we can continue to receive.

7121. Do you think it is more than the negro can afford to pay?—No, not more than the negro can afford to pay.

7122. Then why should it be more than you can continue to receive?—The negroes have such a great opportunity of buying land at a low price, and they almost all have money now.

7123. In addition to the house and an acre of provision ground, have they gardens attached to their dwellings?—They usually have.

7124. What is the size of the garden?—Very small.

7125. Small as it is, do you find that they are very profitable and productive?—Not on my estates, I think.

7126. Do they generally contain cocoa trees?—Yes; cocoa-nut trees frequently, and plantains; and likewise beans and peas and small provisions.

7127. Did it appear to you that those gardens, small as they were, were capable of producing a very considerable money income to the labourers during the year?—Yes; but their chief dependence is on their grounds.

7128. From the acre of provision ground so allotted to him, is it in the power of the negro to grow much more provisions than his family, ordinarily speaking, would require?—I should say a very great deal more.

7129. Do they find a ready market for the surplus produce?—They do; but lately provisions are much lower in value.

7130. Are they enabled to take so much surplus produce to market as to leave them a large money receipt in the course of the year?—I should say a very large sum.

7131. Is it so large a sum as, in your opinion, to make them to a great extent independent of the money wages they receive for their labour?—I think so.

7132. In what part of Jamaica are your three estates situated?—Two of them in the parish of Hanover, near to Lucea; the other about 12 miles from Kingston, in the parish of St. Andrew.

7133. Do the customs you have described as to the occupation of premises prevail in all three of the estates?—Yes, very much.

7134. Is

7134. Is there any contract between you and the labourers for the occupation of those premises?—They hold them as weekly tenants.

7135. On a verbal contract?—A verbal contract.

7136. Consequently you are able to eject on a week's notice?—Yes.

7137. In such cases would you allow them to reap the produce growing in their provision-grounds?—The law of the island entitles them to that.

7138. In that verbal contract, has it been the custom on your properties to make any stipulation as to the labourer giving you his time?—No; they are quite at liberty to employ their time as they please.

7139. They are at liberty to work where they like?—Yes.

7140. During the 10 weeks you were there did you turn your attention sufficiently to the subject to be able to form an accurate estimate of the amount of money, per annum, which your labourers can make upon their provision-grounds?—I consider that upon an acre of good land a family could earn 20*l.* or 30*l.* a year, by the profits of the acre of provision-grounds.

7141. In that 20*l.* or 30*l.* a year do you include the value of the provisions which the family consume?—I mean that the land could easily produce a quantity of provisions that will sell for that money.

7142. What is the rate of wages that you pay to your labourers?—I have got very much into the way of doing my work by job, so much an acre for cultivating the land. With other people it varies from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* During the crop I pay some classes 2*s.* and others 1*s.* 6*d.*

7143. What for?—For feeding the mill; boiler-men and cart-men.

7144. When you speak of paying the labourer 1 *s.* and upwards, do you mean that that is for a day's work, or for any given quantity of work?—During crop time, it is for a day's labour.

7145. How many hours does that day's labour involve?—Seven or eight hours during crop.

7146. Did you find, or were you informed, that they would work steadily and industriously for the number of hours required?—When they are at job-work.

7147. When they are at day-work what did you find to be the case?—You cannot depend upon their performing a fair day's labour for the day's wages.

7148. How much per day are they enabled to earn at job-work?—I think they are usually required to do a certain quantity of work by the job; each individual will do a certain quantity of work.

7149. For a task?—Yes.

7150. What is the price of that task?—Usually 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

7151. How many hours does a task usually occupy?—They can do it in five or six or seven hours.

7152. How often are your wages paid?—Weekly.

7153. Did you direct your attention to the number of days in the week that the labourers usually come to work, at the rates you have mentioned?—I think on many estates they usually work five days; on others, only four.

7154. Were they willing to work regularly five days in a week?—One with another we managed to have gangs at work five days, but I endeavoured not to engage a man unless he would work five days in the week.

7155. Did you make it part of the contract with the man that he should work five days in the week?—We usually did so; at other times we got them to take a job.

7156. Was it your usual contract with the labourer that he should work five days in the week?—My manager wrote to me that that was the system.

7157. Are the contracts so made that you can appeal to the magistrates for redress, in the event of the labourer not working five days?—No, I think not.

7158. Did you find that when the bargain was so made, they usually adhered to the terms, and gave you five days labour in the week?—Yes, I think so.

7159. Can you state whether the practice has ever been tried upon your estates of making a bargain with the negro that unless he worked five days, he should not be paid for the time he did work?—My manager wrote to me that he had made that bargain.

7160. How did he find it to answer?—I believe he carried it out.

7161. Did it ever lead to any disputes or questions before the justices?—He said that on occasions where they did not comply with it he would not pay them their wages, and that led to disputes, and sometimes they left the estates.

7162. Can you say whether in such a case the justices would enforce such an

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agreement as that?—I believe, if the employer could show evidence of such an agreement being made, they would enforce it.

7163. If the employer could show evidence of the labourer having given his consent to such terms?—Yes.

7164. Are the Committee to understand that you have not had much cause to complain of the want of continuous labour?—We cannot get labour enough to cultivate the estates to the extent we require.

7165. In what respect is the labour deficient; is it deficient in point of the number of labourers accessible by you, or in the quantum of work which those labourers perform?—I consider more in the quantum of work they perform.

7166. You mean that if they worked industriously, you would have men enough?—I think we might, but I do not consider that we get more than half a day's labour from the people employed and that we pay those wages to.

7167. Do you find that many of your negroes accumulate money, and buy land?—A great many.

7168. Where do they buy land?—I have sold them a good deal myself.

7169. In what quantities to each man?—They usually buy an acre; some will buy several acres, and sell it again in single ones.

7170. At what price per acre have you sold it?—I have sold it from 6 *l.* to 9 *l.* sterling per acre.

7171. Is not that higher than the usual price?—It is sold as low as 3 *l.* an acre in many districts.

7172. Has the negro much expense after that in taking possession of the land?—The land I have sold has been usually high bush or wood, and it costs a good deal of money to cut it down and clear it.

7173. How much?—I suppose, at the rate of labour we pay, 6 *l.* or 7 *l.* an acre for the wood land.

7174. You mean the time would amount to that?—Yes; according to the rate of wages we pay.

7175. What law expenses would he have to defray for such a purchase?—The surveyors usually charge 3 *l.* for making the survey and giving a title and a small plan of the acre.

7176. Have you never so sold less than an acre?—No.

7177. How much more than an acre have you sold upon any occasion?—The surveyor sold off lately 100 acres, and that was divided among a number of people, an acre each, and upwards.

7178. What is the greatest quantity of land you have sold to one purchaser?—I think in one survey there were 12 acres bought by one individual, at 6 *l.* an acre.

7179. In such a case as that where the negro is able to purchase an estate of 12 acres, is there any chance of his being again in the labour market?—Yes, I expect that those people will come to labour for me at times.

7180. Would not the cultivation of 12 acres require all his time?—I understand that that individual divided the land amongst his family afterwards.

7181. How did he obtain the money to buy that extent of land?—The negroes that have been careful and industrious all have a good deal of money now.

7182. In the cases of those who have purchased each an acre, have you found, or do you expect, that they will be willing to continue to labour upon your estate?—Yes, I expect they will be a great source of labour to the estates.

7183. Is the number of labourers upon your estate considerably less than it was during the time of slavery?—Not half the number in Hanover.

7184. Where have they gone to?—They have settled in this way, all round the neighbourhood, buying land.

7185. Have you the labour of anything like the same number of men that you had during slavery?—Upon one estate there were 500 labourers formerly; now I do not suppose they average more than 80 or 100.

7186. Is the quantity of work performed by those 80 or 100 men much less than it was during slavery?—I should say very much less.

7187. Has the quantity of cane land in cultivation on that estate diminished?—Yes, very much.

7188. How much has the cultivation of cane land diminished upon that estate?—I think about half; I do not think there is more in cultivation than half what there was formerly.

7189. Are your other two estates sugar estates?—Yes.

7190. What

7190. What is the proportion in which the cultivation of canes upon those two estates has been diminished?—On the estate in St. Andrew's, the extent of cane land in cultivation is nearly the same; but it does not produce so much sugar by a good deal.

7191. Why not?—They cannot get the canes kept clean when they are young, from want of labour, and they never yield nearly so much when that is the case.

7192. Can you state what has been the diminution in the production of sugar upon those three estates, for any period during freedom, as compared with what it was during the same period in slavery?—Two of those estates used to make 300 hogsheads of sugar, and upwards; the last year of the apprenticeship one of them made 240 hogsheads; in 1839, it made 100 hogsheads; in 1840, 30 hogsheads; in 1841 it made 66; and this year I expect a better crop again, about 120.

7193. Has the reduction on the other estates been in a similar ratio?—The St. Andrew's estate has not been so much diminished, but it is very much less; 68 hogsheads was the amount of the St. Andrew's estate last year.

7194. What do you consider the principal cause of the reduced produce upon your estates?—I think the chief cause was the not being able to get continuous labour the first year of freedom, and the diminished number of people who now work on plantations.

7195. Have the seasons had any material influence upon the amount of the produce?—No; those are all very seasonable estates, in rainy parts of the country.

7196. You do not attribute the reduction of produce in a great degree to the seasons?—Certainly not.

7197. Have not the seasons been unfavourable in Jamaica the last two or three years?—Near the sea-side they have been generally so.

7198. Are your estates so situated that the unfavourable seasons have not affected them?—There is plenty of rain, generally speaking, on these estates.

7199. Then you attribute the reduced produce exclusively to the change in the supply of labour?—Quite so.

7200. Have you had any immigrants upon your estates?—Yes; I have had upon one of the estates about 25 or 26 Africans; I have had them the last three years; they came in August 1839.

7201. In what way did they come?—They are part of a cargo of captured people.

7202. Have they stayed with you ever since?—Yes.

7203. Are they working upon the same terms as the Creoles, as to wages and allowances and provision-grounds?—Yes, substantially the same.

7204. Are they better or worse workmen than the Creoles?—We can depend upon them more.

7205. They are steadier in their habits?—Yes.

7206. Have you any other immgrants?—No, I have not; I have sent out ploughmen from this country.

7207. Have you increased the quantity of machinery upon your estates?—I have established a railroad on one, from the mill-house to the trash-house, for the refuse of the cane for fuel, and I am doing so on another.

7208. Have you adopted the use of the plough to any greatly increased extent?—Yes; I use the plough on all my estates now, as far as it can be done.

7209. Do you use it more than you did?—Yes, much more.

7210. Is the result of your greatly increased use of the plough very much to reduce the quantity of manual labour that you require?—Yes, very much.

7211. Has not the railroad also reduced your necessities for manual labour?—It saves a great deal of manual labour; it saves four or five people a day at the mill.

7212. Do you think that there are any other respects in which, by the increased introduction of machinery, you could diminish the necessity for manual labour?—No, I am not aware of any; I have been endeavouring to use the hoe and harrow plough for cleaning between the canes.

7213. Will that save labour?—If we can use it successfully it will, but I only sent it out the beginning of this year.

7214. You do not yet know whether it is successful or not?—No.

7215. Have your estates been cultivated to a profit since freedom, or have they

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they been productive of loss to you?—I have lost money every year the last three years.

7216. What do you consider to have been the principal cause of that unfortunate change?—The reduced crops, and the high rate of wages.

7217. The cause of the reduced crops, you have before stated, is the want of labour?—Yes.

7218. What remedy have you directed your attention to chiefly?—The only remedy I can think of, is a supply of immigrants from the coast of Africa.

7219. Do you think any change in the laws of labour would be desirable?—I do not see how any change can be made.

7220. Have you not in some sort made a law for yourself, by the system of not allowing men to be paid for work unless they work five days in the week?—Yes, we endeavour to follow that course.

7221. As far as that system has been tried, has it been productive of benefit?—I think so.

7222. From your knowledge of the system of remuneration for labour in Jamaica, are you of opinion that the custom of granting an unlimited quantity of profitable provision-ground is very injurious in its effects to the planter?—We cannot help it; if we do not choose to let those grounds they will buy them.

7223. Is not the effect of that system of unlimited provision-grounds to put it in the power of the labourer to make a great deal of money, and so indirectly to withdraw him from the labour market?—Quite so.

7224. Would it not be very beneficial to the planter if any system could be introduced by which either the labourer should be dependent upon his money-wages, or else pay a rent proportionate to the quantity of land he occupies?—I think it would.

7225. Have you ever considered what number of labourers it would be necessary to introduce into Jamaica, in order to produce a sensible impression upon the labour market?—I think, if each estate upon the average could get a supply of eight or ten labourers, it would produce a very sensible effect.

7226. What total number of labourers would that require?—I suppose there are about 600 sugar estates in Jamaica, and several hundred other plantations.

7227. Then you think that six or eight thousand labourers would produce a sensible impression upon the labour market?—I should think so; but the impression, to be permanent, would require to be followed up annually, to fill up the places of those retiring from estates labour.

7228. Then you mean five or six thousand per annum, and not a total number of five or six thousand?—I mean to say that five or six thousand in one year would have a great effect.

7229. Supposing you had the power of introducing at once the total number requisite to produce a sensible impression upon the labour market, what, in your opinion, would be that total number?—I think that by introducing five or six thousand every year, combined with the natural increase of population, and continued for six, or seven, or eight years, we should be in a much better position.

7230. Then your idea is, that ultimately you would require an addition of some forty or fifty thousand immigrants?—Yes, altogether.

7231. Are you of opinion that the population is increasing rapidly from natural causes?—From all I have heard, it must be.

7232. Did you observe any great change when you returned to Jamaica after your long absence, in the character and habits of the negro population?—Yes; I found them much better dressed, and a great many churches built, and all filled on Sundays.

7233. Did you find them much more moral and better conducted?—Yes.

7234. Did you find them elevated in the scale of civilisation?—Certainly.

7235. Viscount *Howick*.] You have stated that the labourers rent provision-grounds at 1*s.* per acre per week, and you have also stated that land was sold by yourself to the labourers at from 6*l.* to 9*l.* an acre, and by other persons as low as 3*l.*: do you think there is any proportion between those prices for the land sold and the rent you charge?—No; I added that I thought the rent of 1*s.* an acre per week was too large.

7236. Has it created dissatisfaction, charging a rent so obviously beyond the real value of the land?—They generally pay it very willingly.

7237. Sir

7237. Sir *C. Douglas.*] How many hours do your labourers work during crop in the boiling-house?—It depends upon circumstances; the boilers often work till midnight.

7238. Was night-work frequent?—Not very frequent; they agreed for certain wages to boil off a certain quantity of cane liquor.

7239. What was the amount of wages paid to the class of labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar?—Two shillings, usually, a day.

7240. What amount of sugar were you usually in the habit of making per day?—About a ton.

7241. To what extent do the women upon your estates give labour?—There are a good number of women employed.

7242. Married and single both?—Both.

7243. You expect a larger crop this year than in the preceding years?—Yes, I do; considerably larger.

7244. What is the reason that you expect that; is it on account of better seasons or more continuous labour?—Three years ago the crops got down very low from the want of labour, and it takes some time to get them up again; we have got them gradually up to a better crop this year, and labour is more continuous likewise.

7245. Having turned your attention to African immigration, you state that you think it will require 6,000 or 8,000 Africans per annum for five or six years; have you considered under what regulations those people should be imported, and by whom the expense ought to be paid?—I should be very willing to pay my proportion of the expense, if I could get them.

7246. Do you think the island should pay a portion of it?—I believe the island would pay the expense if the people could be got.

7247. Would they pay the whole expense?—I believe so.

7248. Do you think the island would be able to pay the whole expense?—It depends upon the price we get for our sugar and coffee.

7249. As an experiment, you think it would be worth trying?—Yes; the island would make large grants to obtain immigrants from Africa.

7250. Are there any other causes besides those you have mentioned why the number of labourers upon your estates have been diminished?—No; they have been diminished in consequence of settling upon their own lands.

7251. Besides being a proprietor of estates, are you concerned in large mercantile transactions?—Yes.

7252. You act for many estates?—Yes, for a considerable number.

7253. Having been connected with so many estates, in mercantile transactions and otherwise, can you state whether, in your opinion, there is a sufficient quantity of floating capital in the island to secure the required amount of labour, and to pay the wages punctually?—I believe, if the estates were productive, there would not be any difficulty in getting money to carry on the cultivation.

7254. But what is the state of things at present?—It is the reverse just now; at least it has been so these three years past with a great majority of properties.

7255. You stated that two of your estates were in Hanover: Mr. Chamberlaine, the magistrate, in speaking of that parish, seems to say that continuous labour can be very easily had; and with reference to the new township called Phœnix Town, he says, "The number of freeholds among the black population continues to increase, and the effect of this independence is to inculcate habits of thought, prudence, and industry, on the part of the labouring people, and to promote peace, security, and happiness, to the community at large. In the neighbourhood of the settlements and villages no difficulties exist in obtaining labour where punctual money wages are given, combined with fair dealing: in illustration of which, I may mention that at Phœnix Town, on Phœnix Estate, the lessee (whose assurance I have) can at all times command more labourers than he can give employment to; one of the effects of which is to increase his crops materially, and there is now on the ground a larger crop than has been taken off there for ten years past:" is that consistent with your knowledge of the state of things?—It may be an individual case, but it is not the case generally. I believe there is not an estate in that parish that has made crops equal to what it did formerly, unless it be that one, or perhaps another one or two.

7256. Without mentioning any particular part of the parish, he says, "On the whole, I can safely say that the present prospects of the planters are cheering

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and satisfactory, the condition of the labourer improving and happy"?—In 1840 the whole parish of Hanover made only about 2,400 hogsheads of sugar, and there are 63 or 64 estates; that is not 40 hogsheads to each estate.

7257. Then in point of fact, your opinion, derived from your extensive connection with the mercantile transactions of the colony, and especially with regard to Hanover, where you yourself have an estate, does not agree with this Report?—Certainly not.

7258. This Report alludes to the present year, 1841?—Probably that gentleman paid very high wages, and attracted away labourers from other people.

7259. Mr. *Berkeley.*] Are you aware of any estates having been abandoned by the proprietors?—I believe in the east end of the island there are many estates that have been abandoned, in Portland and Manchioneal.

7260. In the district with which you are best acquainted, do you know of any estates that have been abandoned?—I do not think that any have been abandoned in Hanover.

7261. Do you apprehend that any will be abandoned in Hanover?—I should think if the present price of sugar remains they will not.

7262. What would be the effect of a reduction in the price of sugar to the extent of 10 *s.* a hogshead?—I should not think that there would be an estate that would pay its way.

7263. Do not you think it is possible to reduce the cost of production of sugar in Jamaica?—I do not see how it is possible, except by reducing the price of labour, and increasing the quantity of it.

7264. Do not you think greater economy could be introduced into the different processes of the cultivation and manufacture?—We are all endeavouring to adopt every possible economy.

7265. You say that you have introduced the plough; have you tried the horse-hoe?—Yes; I have tried that likewise, and I expect it will be successful from the last accounts; that may save something.

7266. Do the losses you have experienced arise entirely from the reduced production of sugar, or do they arise in part from the rum and molasses not being so profitable as they were formerly?—The rum is much higher than it was.

7267. Notwithstanding the high price of rum, your estates have not proved profitable the last three years?—No.

7268. That you attribute entirely to the high price of labour?—Quite so, and the scarcity of it.

7269. You ascribe it to the insufficiency of labour, and the want of continuous labour?—Yes, to the insufficiency of labour to carry on all our work at one time; for instance, when we are making sugar in crop time we are obliged to stop the mill to clean the young canes.

7270. Have you ever been in any of the foreign slave colonies?—I have been there, but I am not able to give any evidence about them.

7271. Are you aware of the cost of producing sugar in Cuba or Porto Rico?—I know they are selling good Muscovado sugar now in Cuba at 6 *s.* to 7 *s.* per 100 lbs.

7272. Do you think they can produce sugar at that price?—I should think not, for I have heard that a good many planters have failed lately in Cuba.

7273. What do you consider the cost of production of sugar in Jamaica?—It is not easy to say; it depends upon many circumstances; one estate will produce at a third less cost than another.

7274. Can you give the Committee any opinion as to the average cost of production; you say you have heard of 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* a cwt. in Cuba; what may it be in Jamaica?—On one estate I made a calculation: I made 68 hogsheads of sugar and 43 puncheons of rum; deducting the rum and everything I got out of the estate, I found that the sugar had cost me 40 *s.* 8*d.* a cwt., which is more than I got for it by 10 *s.* and 11 *s.* per cwt.

7275. Is the great difference between the price of producing sugar in Cuba, and the price of producing it in Jamaica, to be attributed, in your opinion, to the difference in the cost of labour?—Almost entirely: during slavery in Jamaica, all that the negro got from the master, consisting of clothing, fish, &c. amounted only to about 30 *s.* a year, and they had also their houses and grounds; now they can earn 15 *s.* to 20 *s.* a week, if they choose to work for it, if they really work hard.

7276. Should not you take into the calculation the original cost of the negroes, and

and the risks to which they were exposed?—Yes, that ought to be taken into the calculation; any person that settled an estate, it cost him an enormous amount of money.

7277. *Chairman.*] Have you filled such situations as give you a general knowledge of the island of Jamaica, as well as of the district with which you have been more immediately connected?—I have resided almost entirely in Kingston, the chief town.

7278. Were you partner in an extensive house of business at Kingston?—I was.

7279. In consequence of that situation, were you necessarily acquainted with the transactions and affairs of the greater part of the island?—Not the greater part of the island; there were a good number of estates that I was employed in the management of.

7280. Do you believe that the state of depression, and the diminished produce which you have described, with regard to your own estate, is general throughout Jamaica?—I believe so, with few exceptions.

7281. Do you believe that the difficulties arising from the want of labour are general throughout Jamaica?—I believe so.

7282. Mr. *Barclay.*] Have you formed any estimate of the probable production of sugar this year in Jamaica?—The general estimate is, that the island might produce about 50,000 hogsheads this year.

7283. What was the production last year?—Thirty-three thousand or 35,000, I think.

7284. What was the production in former times, in the time of slavery?—It has been as high as 140,000.

7285. *Chairman.*] To what do you attribute the probable increase of production this year?—I think, for a certain period after total freedom, the negroes seceded from work altogether in many situations, and in consequence we did not get any canes planted; now they are coming round again.

7286. You think the supply of labour has improved this year?—They tell me that it has; that there is more command of labour.

7287. You think that the improved supply of labour is the principal cause of the improved production of the present year?—Yes, with improved seasons in particular districts.

Neill Malcolm, Esq. called in; and Examined.

7288. *Chairman.*] YOU are possessed of considerable property in the island of Jamaica?—I am.

7289. Have you found that the produce of your property has greatly diminished since the emancipation of the slaves?—Greatly.

7290. Have you any objection to state to the Committee to what extent?—Not at all, so far as I am able to state it. I have some Returns, which will show pretty clearly what several of my properties have done. I am possessed of seven sugar estates in the parish of Hanover, and I have the Returns of four of them here. I have not the slightest objection to make up other Returns, but it would require time. These exhibit a fair average of the whole. One estate, which exhibits the most favourable view, is here given, with three others which are by no means so favourable; but there is a very considerable diminution in the whole.

7291. Has the diminution been so great with reference to all those estates as to cause you a loss instead of a profit upon them?—Yes; on three of them there is a positive loss during the last year.

7292. Have you ever been in the island of Jamaica yourself?—No.

7293. Have you received constant and recent communications from your agent there?—I am in the habit of receiving constant communications. This is a letter which I received by the last packet but one, which was written in consequence of my informing my agent that a Committee was sitting for the purpose of investigating this subject, and I desired him to give me every information in his power that he might conceive to be connected with the subject.

7294. Does the letter which you desire to put in, contain a full statement on the part of your agent of the extent and causes of the existing West India depression?—

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depression?—Yes, but the accounts are not given there; the accounts are from my own possession.

7295. Has the agent by whom that letter was written been long resident in Jamaica?—He has been resident there 25 years.

7296. Is he a person in whose general knowledge and accuracy you place full confidence?—Certainly.

7297. Will you have the goodness to put in that Letter and those Returns?

[*The same were delivered in, and are as follows:*]

Sir, Hanover, Jamaica, 2 May 1842.

ANNEXED is a statement showing the number of acres of cane land in cultivation, and the crops made upon your estates, in this island, for the last six years. The cost of the cultivation and manufacture of these crops will be better ascertained by a reference to the accounts in your possession, which are of course more full and accurate than those that are kept here. You will observe that the decrease in the cane field is more upon some of the estates than upon others. The two Retrieves, for instance, decreased one-half, while Pell River and Paradise have decreased but little. The decrease of the crops are still more striking, but it is easily accounted for, and the cause of it is the want of labour to clean the canes in proper time, and keep them in that order that is requisite, and also the slovenly and careless manner in which the negroes now generally do their work. Were I to go back to the time of slavery, I could show a still greater decrease of both cane fields and crops. The number of stock are kept up upon all your estates as formerly, so that the estates have not at all suffered for want of the usual number of stock. It is not the cane fields alone that suffer for want of labour; every department connected with the management of an estate suffers equally as much. Few estates in this parish have their pastures in anything like order. To keep pastures in good order they should be cleaned of all weeds once a year, but many estates have not been able to get them cleaned since the commencement of freedom; indeed, the pastures began to be neglected for want of labour during the apprenticeship, and it is distressing to see the state they are in now, upon some estates grown up into high bushes. This is the case upon your own estate, Argyle; all my endeavours cannot procure people to clean them; and labour is so scarce at present throughout the parish, that I much fear I shall not be able to clean the pastures upon any of your estates this year. That most valuable grass upon estates, called guinea grass, is fast disappearing upon many estates, for want of labour to keep it clean and free of weeds. On your own estates, Argyle, Alexandria, New and Old Retrieves, and Paradise, I recollect pastures in fine guinea grass, that have not now a blade to be seen in them. I have named your own estates, but I could name two-thirds of the estates in the parish that are in a much worse condition than any of yours in this respect. I will just instance Sir S. H. Clarke's estates, and estates belonging to Mr. Miles, of Bristol, in the neighbourhood of Lucea, and many others that I have an opportunity of seeing almost daily. Fences suffer to a similar degree; the old ones cannot be kept in order, nor can we get new ones planted when they are required, and frequent trespass takes place on both cane and grass fields in consequence.

Although we have, as I have stated already, as many stock upon your estates as we used to have in former years, yet we do not by any means make so much compost manure as we used to do, because we cannot get sufficient labour to cut grass and carry it, with other compost stuff, into the pens; and it is a hard matter to get the little we do make carried and dropped into the cane holes, the people frequently refusing to do this work, saying it is too dirty and filthy a work for free people to do; we are therefore obliged to fly-pen the land as much as possible when it can be done, and when the land is not too steep for it, but even then we seldom get it well supplied with grass.

A great loss of produce is sustained from the slow manner in which the crops are taken off. The frequent stopping of fire under the coppers wastes the trash that we use for fuel, and it both lessens the quantity and injures the quality of the sugar. The want of trash has been felt very much this year. From the frequent rains we have had, the trash could not be spread out in the sun to dry, and we have therefore been obliged to go to a great deal of expense to cut and carry bamboos, wood, and brushwood, or whatever we could procure for fuel to boil the sugar.

It is a remarkable fact that the young people, both males and females, that were under six years of age at the beginning of the apprenticeship in 1834, and were then made free, have never gone to field labour. They will attend stock and do some slight work of that description, but not field labour. I only know of one instance upon your properties where any of them has gone to field labour, and that is at New Retrieve, a girl has very recently turned out with the gang. Formerly boys and girls of that age did a great deal of work, and boys from the age of 14 to 18 years used to be put to work mules, and as cart-boys. The want of them now for that work is severely felt upon estates, because older persons refuse to do it, and will tell the overseer, when he asks them to work mules, that they cannot do it, and that he must go and look for young men to do it, well knowing that he cannot get them. Thus we are in crop time frequently put to a stand for want of six or eight willing men to work

work mules and bring the canes to the mill; indeed, I complain of the delay in this respect during the present crop more than I do of any other department connected with the manufacture of produce. If we could get the canes brought to the mill sufficiently fast to keep it going all day, we would make larger weeks' works, and finish the crops much earlier. Some of these young people I speak of go to school, but I believe the greater part of them idle themselves away about the roads and negro villages.

I have remarked upon every estate when the crop is drawing near a close, or about two-thirds finished, that the people slack their hand, even if they should have been going on well before, and do very little, from a wish, no doubt, to spin it out as long as possible, so as they may have an opportunity of pilfering as much as possible of it, and getting the liquor, &c. to drink. This they will do in spite of all the overseer's and book-keeper's vigilance. There is also a loss of produce sustained in this way.

In our domestic establishment we suffer equally as much. Servants will seldom remain long in one place: they will frequently go away after receiving their weekly wages without giving you any reason for it, or even telling you that they are leaving; and when we do have them, they are often so insolent and so indolent that we might sometimes as well be without them.

The stock are frequently very cruelly used by those who work them and have the care of them; and when found fault with for it, they will tell you to go and find others to do their work if you can. I have heard of many instances where they have told the overseer that they know he cannot do without them, and he had better not find fault with their work or they will leave him, &c. &c.

The wages paid at present are too high, and, I fear, more than estates can continue to give. The task I have known the labourers do during the apprenticeship is 30 chains, at cleaning or trashing canes, and this they would do in from six to eight hours. The task now generally given in this parish is 18 chains, and for this they are paid 1 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling; and if they are very foul, or when backing young canes, they are often paid at the rate of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for 12 chains. In the leeward part of the parish and the low lands of Westmorland, they pay as high as 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for cleaning 10 chains; even this task they do not always perform; sometimes only the half of it in a day. If we had sufficient population in the island and labour plentiful, the task should be 30 chains a day for 1 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling. At present the negroes use every means in their power to keep up a high rate of wages; and if any one makes an attempt to reduce it, an immediate cessation of labour is the consequence; and if they hear of an estate getting the labour performed cheaper than others, they endeavour to prevent the people from working upon it. I will give you an instance of this, that took place at New Retrieve, and of which I was myself the innocent cause. The circumstance is as follows, and it took place nearly two months ago, although I only found it out a few days ago. The Pell River people were not behaving well, and were getting on very slowly with the crop; the other estates were doing better, and New Retrieve was at that time getting young canes cleaned at the rate of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per 24 chains. I sent for two of the head men at Pell River to come to my own residence, in order that I might endeavour to find out from them if there was any cause for dissatisfaction amongst the labourers upon the property. I could not find that there was anything beyond their own disinclination to work. I endeavoured to explain to them how much the estate was suffering from their idle habits, and showed them that the rest of your estates were getting on with the crop better than they were doing, and pointed out to them the task they were doing in the field at New Retrieve, and explained that it was more than ever they did; and told them that they, being head men on the estate, should advise the people to work better and for less wages. Any rational man would have thought that this was all very well, and that some good might be expected to result from it; but it turned out quite the contrary. Those men told what I had said to them as they went along on their way home; every one was quite indignant that the Retrieve people should be doing any kind of labour for less wages, or working better than their neighbours. Some went direct to the Retrieves and to jobbers (strangers) who had been there cleaning canes at the rate I have mentioned, and told them not to do so again, as by it they were (to use their own expressions) spoiling the free country. This took place on a Saturday, and on the next Monday morning the people refused to clean canes at the same rate they had done the week before. The field was not very foul, and the overseer refused to give any increase of wages, consequently the strangers all went away; and although the estates' people went on with the crop, they would not clean canes. From that day to this the strangers have not returned to work upon the estate; and as the cane field has now got foul, and finding out the cause of their not working, we have been obliged to offer 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for 18 chains again. This, as I have already stated, was only found out a few days ago, from the head overlooker on the estate, Dugald Malcolm; and after telling it, he seemed very much afraid that he should get into disgrace with his fellow-labourers for having mentioned anything of it to me or to the overseer.

There is a man working at Blenheim, of the name of Dugald M. Ruthven (whose name I believe I have before mentioned to you); he keeps a gang working by themselves, and he takes piece or task work as it suits his purpose, and in this way cleans a good deal of the cane field. This estate has got on more steadily with the crop this year than almost any estate in the quarter, but this does not appear to please the labourers upon the neighbouring properties, and they have endeavoured to induce Dugald Ruthven to leave the estate, telling

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him that he is doing too much good for it, and working for too little wages, &c. The man lately got dissatisfied in consequence of all this, but the overlooker upon the estate, Edward M'Nichols, who is a very good man, told the overseer quietly how the man was tampered with, and on being questioned he acknowledged it, and named some of the head men on the neighbouring estates as being amongst those who were advising him not to do so much work for Blenheim. By finding out this in time we have, at least for the present, defeated their object, and the man continues to work at Blenheim as formerly. Their maxim appears to be to keep estates from making large crops, if possible. This also appears from their conduct at Pell River; they see a good crop on the ground, and instead of exerting themselves to take it off, they just go on easy, making just now not more than three or four hogsheads a week, when they might easily make seven or eight hogsheads. I have here given you instances that are within my own knowledge, and that have taken place upon your own estates under my management.

The labourers in this island enjoy privileges, comforts, and luxuries that I am sure no peasantry in Europe can command. Upon estates they have comfortable cottages, with gardens attached, and provision-grounds upon some other part of the estates, for which they pay a rent of 2*s.* per week. If they choose to labour they may earn all throughout the year, not less than 2*s.* a day, and sometimes 3*s.* and 4*s.* per day. They raise hogs and poultry, and many of them horses; their gardens and grounds are very productive; if an able man was to apply his labour properly in his ground for one day in the week during the year, it would be sufficient to maintain a family of five or six individuals. Besides this, almost every house has two or three bread-fruit trees, with cocoa nut, orange, and other fruit trees attached to it; the bread-fruit alone is sufficient to support a family for two or three months in the year; all this makes them totally independent of their employer or of performing continuous field labour. The market is entirely supplied by them with hogs and poultry, for which they receive a very high price; 7½*d.* a lb. for pork, and from 2*s.* to 3*s.* for a common fowl. They also supply the market with ground provisions, vegetables, and fruits. The rate of wages is so high that few overseers, or even proprietors, cultivate provisions or vegetables; they find it less expensive, although they are dear, to purchase those articles from their own labourers. Those of them that have horses think that they have a right to keep them upon the estate free of pasturage, a privilege, I regret to say, many allow them; there are also many estates on which rent is not demanded for their cottages and grounds, and this is frequently a cause of dissatisfaction amongst the labourers upon properties where both rent and pasturage are enforced; they evade the payment of both in every way they can, but particularly the pasturage, and will feed their horses when the overseer cannot see them in some ruinat land belonging to the estate, or some neighbouring property; if the overseer should take them up trespassing and send them to the pound, it at once causes a dispute with the owner and his family, and very likely a cessation of labour, on that part at least of the estate, for days or weeks.

They are fast gaining wealth and property; a great many have already purchased freeholds of their own, and others are doing so daily. Many have also rented land, and have built huts upon it, and are squatting down, doing little or no labour for any estate. Billy Campbell, who formerly belonged to Old Retrieve, has 15 acres of land of his own, for which, I understand, he paid 90*l.* sterling; he has two or three horses. There are 15 other persons from this estate who have purchased from two to six acres of land, and have built houses upon it. Some of them are still residing upon the estate, while others have left and are residing on their own property. They have all got horses. At New Retrieve there are five residing upon the estate that have purchased freeholds of their own, while others have done so and left. Edward M'Nichol (who is still head overlooker at Blenheim) has purchased eight acres of land, on which he has erected three dwelling-houses already, and is now going on with the erection of the fourth house. These houses he will rent out, while he himself resides upon the estate, and pays rent for a house and ground. He has also two horses; others from this estate have land and horses. At Alexandria there are very few men that have not both land and horses of their own, and it is the case more or less upon every one of your properties; the individual instances of it are too numerous to mention. There is a man of the name of Edward Benhaim, residing at Kew Estate, that has purchased a piece of land near to my residence, and he is now building a two-story house upon it that cannot cost less than from 400*l.* to 500*l.* sterling. He dresses, and rides as good a horse on Sunday, or any public day, as any gentleman in the parish, yet, because he is a negro, he thinks he should not pay taxes, and he had the impertinence the other day to petition the vestry for relief of taxes. These are a few instances of many I might give of the wealth and property the late slaves are fast acquiring. It is therefore but natural to suppose that as they acquire property they will be leaving the estates, and if immigrants are not introduced to supply the deficiency of labourers, estates must give up the cultivation of sugar. At present, I believe few estates pay their contingencies, and many, to my own knowledge, are bringing the proprietors very much in debt; and if matters do not speedily mend, proprietors must either sell their estates for very little or throw them up altogether.

I was myself of opinion, some time ago, that matters were really mending with us, but I now begin to doubt this very much, because labour is more scarce now than at this period last year; and the people have not at all improved in their conduct of late. This may partly be accounted for, in my opinion, from the circumstance of immigration having so signally failed as yet. Seeing this the negroes may think that we cannot get people to supply their

their place so readily as was expected, and that may have induced them to appear more independent.

The above are some of the evils and losses we have to contend with in the management of estates in Jamaica; and in my opinion nothing will remove them but immigration, and that too upon an extensive scale. Government must take up the matter; if they do not, I fear Jamaica will be ruined as a sugar colony.

I am, &c.

Neill Malcolm, Esq. (signed) *Daniel Sinclair.*

Received with Letter dated 2 May 1842.

MEMORANDA of the Number of Acres of Cane Land in Cultivation, and the quantity of Sugar made on the following Estates belonging to *Neill Malcolm*, Esq., from 1837 to 1842, as particularly set forth; viz.

NAMES OF ESTATES.	Crops.	Number of Acres.	Sugar Made.		Crops.	Number of Acres.	Sugar Made.	
			H.	T.			H.	T.
Retrieve Estate - -	1837	100	128 ½	5	1840	63	32	5
o./w.	1838	83	94 ⅔	6	1841	40	35	7
	1839	119	83 ½	4	1842	66	63	4
Retrieve Estate - -	1837	100	141 ½	4	1840	76	61 ¾	4
n./w.	1838	123	145 ¼	4	1841	54	40 ½	4
	1839	130	101 ¾	5	1842	74	70	4
Blenheim Estate - -	1837	133	135		1840	96	82	
	1838	134	142		1841	80	71	
	1839	138	131		1842	78	95	4
Pell River Estate - -	1837	76	104		1840	78	88	
	1838	84	96		1841	64	85	
	1839	86	94		1842	72	115	4
New Paradise Estate -	1837	86	118	5	1840	75	47	2
	1838	84	112	5	1841	76	69	3
	1839	79	100	5	1842	81	100	4
Alexandria Estate - -	1837	148	142		1840	140	80	
	1838	167	129 ½		1841	99	67	
	1839	153	105 ½		1842	62	54	4
Argyle Estate - -	1837	130	126	6	1840	109	71	2
	1838	114	141 ¾	6	1841	86	70	4
	1839	145	113	6	1842	86	95	4

N.B.—The crops of 1842 are not yet finished, but I have put down in this list what I suppose will be made.

(signed) *Daniel Sinclair.*

Neill Malcolm, Esq.

7 July 1842.

TRANSACTIONS connected with SUGAR ESTATE (A.) in the Island of *Jamaica*, in Raising, Selling, &c. the Crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841.

This Estate has 311 acres of Cane land, 150 acres of Labourers' grounds or gardens, and 534 acres of Pasture, &c.; Total, 995 acres. There is on it a Boiling-house, a Curing-house, a Distilling-house, Two Trash-houses, a Mill-house, Mules' stables, Carpenters' and Coopers' shop, Overseer's house, Book-keeper's house, Hospital, Horse stable, and 60 Labourers' cottages. Of these last, 12 are occupied by Invalids, and, with their gardens, are allowed them rent-free. There are likewise on the Estate 49 Mules, 1 Bull, 6 Cows, 80 Steers, 38 Spayed Heifers, and 6 Calves: Total, 190 head of Stock, and a permanent Establishment of 1 Overseer and 2 Book-keepers.

PAID FOR.	1839. £. s. d.	1840. £. s. d.	1841. £. s. d.
Wharfage	32 1 3	26 8 9	25 9 11
Doctors	33 – –	11 9 –	—
Small stores bought in Jamaica	21 6 –	– 8 7	—
Tradesmen and labourers	1,233 19 1	1,069 19 7	1,290 11 11
Overseer, book-keepers, and attorney	455 7 9	438 – 6	404 17 4
Cattle purchased	244 10 –	251 8 –	153 12 –
Lumber purchased	193 13 1	121 7 1	147 3 4
Taxes and duties	131 6 11	145 8 10	157 6 3
Miscellaneous	59 6 5	35 – 2	30 8 7
TOTAL Expenditure in Jamaica £.	2,404 10 6	2,099 10 6	2,209 9 4
Supplies sent from England	261 1 2	148 13 4	126 4 –
Freight of sugar and rum home	429 5 7	404 3 9	386 13 11
Insurances	68 12 1	85 1 5	79 16 1
Duty on sugar	1,853 10 3	1,812 5 4	1,764 15 3
Dock and other charges	98 10 8	76 12 10	72 15 3
Commission, selling produce, and managing	182 6 8	203 18 –	167 3 8
Interest on capital employed in working estate, at 5 per cent.	187 14 3	145 – 7	143 15 6
£.	5,485 11 2	4,975 5 9	4,950 13 –

	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Number of acres of canes cultivated	103 3 28	90 0 0	69 0 0
Ditto uncultivated	207 0 12	221 0 0	242 0 0

RECEIVED FOR	1839. £. s. d.	1840. £. s. d.	1841. £. s. d.
Rum sold	49 13 7	28 12 4	52 6 8
Sugar sold	10 4 –	6 12 –	2 2 –
Cattle sold	01 12 6	78 1 10	71 6 6
Sundries sold	29 15 6	- - -	40 8 6
Rent	11 9 –	201 3 6	252 9 6
TOTAL Receipts in Jamaica £.	162 14 7	314 9 8	418 13 2
Sugar sold in England	4,872 8 8	5,508 4 10	4,402 14 –
Rum ditto	1,123 – –	1,207 2 –	957 1 –
Interest on compensation-money, at 3½ per cent. being rather more than 3 per cent. consols would yield	195 12 11	195 12 11	195 12 11
£.	6,353 16 2	7,225 9 5	5,974 1 1
Gain	£. 868 5 –	£. 2,250 3 8	£. 1,023 8 1
* Crops estimated at	105 hhds.	92 hhds.	76 hhds.
* No. of hhds. made, and average weight	cwts. qrs. lbs. 96. 15 3 23	cwts. qrs. lbs. 88. 16 0 23	cwts. qrs. lbs. 85. 16 1 17
Quantity of sugar made	1,531 1 11	1,426 2 25	1,394 1 0
Average price at which sold	39 *s.* 9 *d.*	52 *s.*	38 *s.* per cwt.

* Average crop for 10 years, from 1829 to 1838, 141 hogsheads.

N.B.—It will be observed no charge whatever is made for interest upon the prime cost of estate and works, or for insurance against fire.—This estate is managed by the proprietor, without the intervention of any merchant; he buys every article for ready money, sells his own produce, pays all labourers once a week, and all salaries once a month. The supply of labour upon this estate has been moderately good and continuous; the consequences are, the estimated crops and the actual crops are very near the same, whilst it has yielded in each year a profit in all these particulars, presenting a contrast to the other estates.

London, 4 June 1842.

Neill Malcolm, Esq.

7 July 1842.

TRANSACTIONS connected with SUGAR ESTATE (F.) in the Island of *Jamaica*, in Raising, Selling, &c. the Crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841.

This Estate has 180 acres of Cane land, 20 acres of Labourers' grounds or gardens, and 857 acres of Pasture, &c.: Total, 1,057 acres. There is on it the Overseer's house, Book-keeper's house, School-house, Carpenter's shop, Cooper's shop, Mill-house, Boiling-house, Curing-house, Distilling-house, 2 Trash-houses, Mules' stables, and 45 Labourers' cottages; of these last, eight are occupied by Invalids, and, with their gardens, are allowed them rent-free. There are likewise on the Estate 49 Mules, 5 Cows, 75 Steers, 52 Spayed Heifers, 6 Calves: Total, 187 head of Stock, and a permanent Establishment of 1 Overseer and 2 Book-keepers.

PAID FOR	1839. £.	s.	d.	1840. £.	s.	d.	1841. £.	s.	d.
Wharfage	27	12	3	20	2	5	18	15	2
Doctors	36	4	–	8	5	–	—		
Small stores, bought in Jamaica	26	15	11	35	6	7	3	–	–
Tradesmen and labourers	1,411	5	7	1,335	15	3	1,536	14	3
Overseer, book-keepers, and attorney	410	16	3	375	10	5	414	–	–
Cattle purchased	113	14	–	214	16	–	158	8	–
Lumber purchased	229	9	6	129	9	6	111	16	–
Taxes and duties	117	6	7	173	15	7	149	3	7
Miscellaneous	105	1	11	85	2	8	80	11	–
TOTAL Expenditure in Jamaica £.	2,478	6	–	2,378	3	5	2,472	8	–
Supplies sent from England	238	14	5	183	13	6	163	4	5
Freight of sugar and rum home	385	15	–	300	19	10	272	7	4
Insurances	42	14	–	47	–	8	52	16	5
Duty on sugar	2,051	11	11	1,676	11	11	1,365	–	5
Dock and other charges	67	9	–	48	19	8	44	19	11
Commission, selling, and managing	158	3	7	147	2	2	115	16	8
Interest on capital employed in working estate, at 5 per cent.	107	13	9	92	–	–	155	3	10
£.	5,530	7	8	4,874	11	2	4,641	17	–

	1839. A.	R.	P.	1840. A.	R.	P.	1841. A.	R.	P.
Number of acres of canes cultivated	137	3	9	107	0	0	99	3	9
Ditto uncultivated	42	0	31	73	0	0	80	0	31

RECEIVED FOR	1839. £.	s.	d.	1840. £.	s.	d.	1841. £.	s.	d.
Rum sold	1,224	7	9	1,019	13	7	379	8	7
Sugar sold	8	–	9	6	5	4	10	18	4
Cattle sold	37	5	–	63	9	3	46	–	–
Sundries sold	2	8	–	3	6	5	—		
Rent	9	2	9	242	9	4	130	–	9
TOTAL Receipts in Jamaica £.	1,281	4	3	1,335	3	11	566	7	8
Sugar sold in England	5,641	10	6	5,058	18	8	3,377	12	–
Rum ditto	–	–	–	–	–	–	361	17	6
Interest on compensation-money, at 3½ p'cent., being rather more than 3 per cent. consols, would yield	168	7	–	168	7	–	168	7	–
£.	7,091	1	9	6,562	9	7	4,474	4	2

	1839.	1840.	1841.
Gain	£. 1,560 14 1	£. 1,687 18 5	—
Loss	– – –	– – –	£. 167 12 10
* Crops estimated at	132 hhds.	103 hhds.	80 hhds.
* No. of hhds. made, and average weight	cwt. qrs. lb. 103. 16 1 18	cwt. qrs. lb. 78. 16 3 19	cwt. qrs. lb. 62. 17 1 13
Quantity of sugar made	1,691 – 1	1,320 1 6	1,077 1 10
Average price at which sold, exclusive of duty	42 *s.* 9 *d.*	51 *s.* 5 *d.*	37*s.* 9*d.* per cwt.

Average crop for 10 years, 1829 to 1838, 165 hogsheads.

N.B.—It will be observed no charge whatever is made for interest upon the prime cost of estate and works, or for insurance against fire.—This estate is managed by the proprietor without the intervention of any merchant; he buys every article for ready money, sells his own produce, pays all labourers once a week, and all salaries once a month.

* The difference between the estimated and the actual crop may be said to arise almost entirely, if not indeed altogether, from a want of sufficient labour to manufacture it.

London, 4 June 1842.

Neill Malcolm, Esq.

7 July 1842.

TRANSACTIONS connected with Sugar Estate (E.) in the Island of *Jamaica*, in Raising, Selling, &c. the Crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841.

This Estate has 192 acres, 1 rood, 22 perches of Cane land, 150 acres of Labourers' grounds and gardens, and 915 acres, 2 roods of Pasture, &c.: Total 1,257 acres, 3 roods, 22 perches. There is on it an Overseer's house, Hospital, Book-keeper's house, Mill-house, Mules' stables, Boiling-house, Curing-house, Still-house, 2 Trash-houses, 53 Labourers' cottages (of these last 11 are occupied by Invalids, and, with their gardens, are allowed them rent-free). There are likewise on the estate 53 Mules, 1 Bull, 10 Cows, 79 Steers, 100 Pen Heifers, 52 Spayed Heifers, 8 Calves: Total, 213 head of Stock, and a permanent Establishment of 1 Overseer and 2 Book-keepers.

PAID FOR	1839. £. s. d.	1840. £. s. d.	1841. £. s. d.
Wharfage	41 5 3	21 5 5	19 4 11
Doctors	30 – –	7 10 –	—
Small stores bought in Jamaica	64 6 2	6 2 7	12 – –
Tradesmen and labourers	1,325 11 6	1,012 – 10	1,153 3 10
Overseer, book-keepers, and attorney	427 3 2	390 6 4	413 15 7
Cattle purchased	244 10 –	213 12 –	205 4 –
Lumber purchased	259 17 –	98 7 7	147 15 11
Taxes and duties	122 15 5	108 15 3	133 12 8
Miscellaneous	60 7 –	36 14 11	184 – 9
TOTAL Expenditure in Jamaica £.	2,575 15 6	1,894 14 11	2,268 17 8
Supplies sent from England	297 12 10	201 1 1	114 11 9
Freight of sugar and rum home	484 18 –	293 9 1	204 18 1
Insurances	69 8 9	54 12 4	41 5 2
Duty on sugar	2,046 12 8	1,334 – 11	888 9 11
Dock and other charges	117 14 4	53 1 7	41 19 8
Commission, selling produce, and managing	200 14 11	144 11 8	88 11 6
Interest on capital employed in working estate, at 5 per cent.	203 17 –	132 6 –	155 16 8
£.	5,996 14 –	4,107 17 7	3,804 10 –
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Number of acres of canes cultivated	132 2 0	79 0 0	54 2 0
Ditto uncultivated	59 3 22	113 1 22	137 3 22

RECEIVED FOR	1839. £. s. d.	1840. £. s. d.	1841. £. s. d.
Rum sold	—	—	—
Sugar sold	5 3 5	25 11 2	—
Cattle sold	105 18 –	64 13 3	42 12 –
Sundries sold	39 13 1	—	—
Rent	4 14 4	241 10 9	263 7 –
TOTAL Receipts in Jamaica £.	155 8 10	331 15 2	305 19 –
Sugar sold in England	5,447 1 10	4,085 4 6	2,226 13 3
Rum ditto	1,409 8 6	839 12 –	634 18 –
Interest on compensation money, at 3½ per cent., being rather more than 3 per cent. consols would yield	168 9 11	168 9 11	168 9 11
£.	7,180 9 1	5,425 1 7	3,336 – 2
Gain	£.1,183 15 1	£.1,317 4 –	—
Loss	– – –	– – –	£.468 9 10
* Crops estimated at	134 hhds. – cwts. qrs. lbs.	80 hhds. – cwts. qrs. lbs.	60 hhds. cwts. qrs. lbs.
* No. of hhds. made, and average weight	102. 16 2 6	62. 16 3 18	42. 16 2 15
Quantity of sugar made	1,688 3 11	1,048 3 24	698 3 15
Average price at which sold, exclusive of duty	40 *s.* 3 *d.*	52 *s.* 8 *d.*	38 *s.* 6 *d.* per cwt.

Average crop for 10 years, 1829 to 1838, 136 hhds.

N.B.—It will be observed no charge whatever is made for interest upon the prime cost of estate and works, or for insurance against fire.—This estate is managed by the proprietor, without the intervention of any merchant; he buys every article for ready money, sells all his own produce, pays all labourers once a week, and all salaries once a month.

* The difference between the estimated and the actual crop may be said to arise almost entirely, if not indeed altogether, from a want of sufficient labour to manufacture it.

London, 4 June 1842.

TRANSACTIONS connected with SUGAR ESTATE (D.) in the Island of *Jamaica*, in Raising, Selling, &c. the Crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841.

Neill Malcolm, Esq.

7 July 1842.

This Estate has 236 acres, 1 rood, 4 perches of Cane land, 119 acres, 2 roods, 3 ½ perches of Labourers' grounds or gardens, and 672 acres, 2 roods, 18 ½ perches of Pasture, &c.: Total, 1,028 acres, 2 roods, 14 perches. There is on it a Mill-house, a Boiling-house, a Curing-house, 2 Trash-houses, a Distilling-house, Mules' stables, Carpenters' and Coopers' shop, Hospital, Overseer's house, Book-keeper's house, Horse stable, and 41 Labourers' cottages; of these last, 6 are occupied by Invalids, and, with their gardens, are allowed them rent-free. There are likewise on the Estate 46 Mules, 1 Bull, 2 Cows, 72 Steers, 60 Pen Heifers, 46 Spayed Heifers, 6 Calves: Total, 179 head of Stock, and a permanent Establishment of 1 Overseer and 2 Book-keepers.

PAID FOR	1839.	1840.	1841.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Wharfage	37 10 1	18 18 3	14 8 7
Doctors	27 – –	6 15 –	—
Small stores bought in Jamaica	42 7 2	12 14 10	7 19 6
Tradesmen and labourers	1,139 3 10	910 3 9	1,163 – 8
Overseer, book-keepers, and attorney	401 1 9	379 8 –	400 11 5
Cattle purchased	309 6 –	111 12 –	199 4 –
Lumber purchased	162 6 –	111 4 7	100 14 –
Taxes and duties	107 5 3	93 5 10	124 3 2
Miscellaneous	53 – 7	30 6 11	52 2 7
TOTAL Expenditure in Jamaica £.	2,279 – 8	1,674 9 2	2,062 3 11
Supplies sent from England	277 4 4	219 6 8	113 1 3
Freight of sugar and rum home	415 17 7	158 18 5	166 16 3
Insurances	60 – 8	28 2 –	34 9 7
Duty on sugar	1,781 13 9	717 15 8	749 6 10
Dock and other charges	94 2 9	27 9 1	31 11 4
Commission on selling, and managing	175 7 9	78 19 4	71 13 –
Interest on capital employed in working estate, at 5 per cent.	180 14 3	121 10 8	138 13 10
£.	5,264 1 9	3,026 11 3	3,367 16 –
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Number of acres of canes cultivated	119 0 12	53 0 0	38 0 10
Ditto uncultivated	117 0 32	183 1 4	198 0 34

RECEIVED FOR	1839.	1840.	1841.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Rum sold	35 15 2	11 2 –	—
Sugar sold	11 19 6	6 – –	17 16 –
Cattle sold	46 4 –	65 17 3	52 10 –
Sundries sold	50 14 4	—	—
Rent	2 – 6	190 8 9	195 14 6
TOTAL Receipts in Jamaica £.	146 13 6	273 8 –	266 – 6
Sugar sold in England	4,817 15 4	2,284 9 5	1,862 3 1
Rum sold in ditto	1,095 12 2	486 6 6	450 2 –
Interest on compensation-money, at 3 ½ per cent., being rather more than 3 per cent. consols would yield	154 7 10	154 7 10	154 7 10
£.	6,214 8 10	3,198 11 9	2,732 13 5
Gain	£. 950 7 –	£. 172 – 6	—
Loss	– – –	– – –	£. 635 2 7
* Crops estimated at	110 hhds. –	49 hhds. –	51 hhds.
	cwts. qrs. lbs.	cwts. qrs. lbs.	cwts. qrs. lbs.
* No. of hhds. made, and average weight	87. 16 3 21	34. 16 2 13	37. 15 3 23
Quantity of Sugar made	1,473 3 18	565 – 5	590 1 22
Average price at which sold, exclusive of duty	41 *s.* 5 *d.*	55 *s.* 8 *d.*	37/10 per cwt.

Average crop for 10 years, 1829 to 1838, 136 hhds.

N.B.—It will be observed no charge whatever is made for interest upon prime cost of estate and works, or for insurance against fire.—This estate is managed by the proprietor, without the intervention of any merchant; he buys every article for ready money, sells his own produce, pays all labourers once a week, and all salaries once a month.

* The difference between the estimated and the actual crop may be said to arise almost entirely, if not indeed altogether, from a want of sufficient labour to manufacture it.

London, 4 June 1842.

Lunæ, 11° *die Julii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bankes.	Sir C. Douglas.
Mr. Grantley Berkeley.	Viscount Howick.
Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Vernon Smith.

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

JAMAICA.

Right hon. Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, Bart. G.C.B.

11 July 1842.

The Right hon. Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, Bart. G. C. B. called in; and Examined.

7298. *Chairman.*] YOU have lately returned to England, after having filled the situation of Governor of the colony of Jamaica?—I have.

7299. For how long did you occupy that position?—About two years and nine months.

7300. You are of course aware of the great extent of distress on the part of the proprietors in the West Indies, which has been the subject of much complaint, and which has led to the appointment of this Committee?—I am aware that great distress is felt; that is to say, distress from the expense of cultivation, and the want of remuneration from the estates.

7301. Will you favour the Committee with your opinion as to the causes of that distress in the island of Jamaica?—The causes are the expenses of cultivation, and, in many cases, the want of constant and continuous labour; I am not aware of any other causes. The expense of cultivation arising from that want of continuous labour, and from other circumstances, prevents a proper remuneration, or any remuneration equal to what was formerly derived from those estates. That, I believe, is the chief cause of the distress that is felt.

7302. Do you think that those causes are temporary in their nature, and that this distress is such as to admit of the planters waiting without any other remedy than the progress of time?—I should fear, from what I hear, that many would be ruined before any remedy could be applied, as far as I have understood. I speak of course only from general information derived from others.

7303. Do you think the distress is temporary in its nature?—It is so far temporary, that the population may be expected to increase, which would throw more labour into the market; but that must be, I should suppose, a very slow process.

7304. Do you consider that the number of the population which engages in field labour is at all adequate to maintaining the present cultivation of the staple productions of Jamaica?—The number of those who actually engage in field labour, I should think, generally speaking, not adequate, though in some parts of the island it is; but, generally speaking, for the whole island, it is not adequate, because some are constantly withdrawing from field labour.

7305. Do you think that that process of constantly withdrawing from field labour is in operation to any extent?—From what I understand, I should apprehend that it is.

7306. Therefore you would infer that, whatever the evil may be, it is constantly increasing?—I should think it is.

7307. Are the Committee to understand that the increase of the evil is in a ratio greater than the increase of the population from natural causes?—I should suppose so at present.

7308. To what other causes than the withdrawal from labour are you inclined to attribute the diminution in the number of the population engaged in field labour?—To their acquiring lands, obtaining freeholds, and desiring to be independent.

7309. And therefore the labour given by the population is not sufficiently continuous to afford an adequate return for the wages paid on the part of the planters?—That is the case frequently, but not universally.

7310. Will you state what remedy you would suggest for the evils to which you have adverted?—The only remedy I can suggest, would be an increase of the population.

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7311. You mean by means of immigration?—By immigration.

7312. Has immigration already taken place to any considerable extent?—It has taken place, but not to an extent that can be called considerable, I should say.

7313. Not to any sufficient extent to check the evils to which you have alluded?—Not, except so far as the small numbers that have come would operate.

7314. From what quarter would you recommend that the necessary immigration should take place?—I should think from Africa; the African appears to be the best suited as a labourer in Jamaica.

7315. Can you, from your experience of Jamaica, state to what extent in any year, and for what length of time, you think such immigration should continue?—I should think it might take place to any extent, and for any length of time, that is, within the bounds of probability as to its practical results.

7316. Do you think that the experiment of European immigration must be altogether abandoned as hopeless?—In the ordinary way, that is to say, the importation of Europeans, merely with a view to their going into the market for labour, I should think it must be abandoned. I conceive that it has failed altogether, though there are cases in which it would succeed, and has succeeded, in particular instances; I still think that European immigration on a large scale to the central part of Jamaica might be carried into execution with good effect, provided any party were found who could bear the expense of such a transaction, but it would require great expense. They must be settled in villages; they must be brought together as an European population, and placed altogether in different circumstances from that of a man merely going out there to hire out his labour in the best market. It would be a great undertaking, and I am not aware that there is any party prepared to bear the expense of it; and therefore I should say that European immigration must be abandoned altogether as a general system, unless there were any party either in this country or in Jamaica ready to undertake the settlement of Europeans in villages or towns over the whole centre of the island. If that plan could be adopted, I think it would be a great public benefit, but I do not see the probability of its ever taking place.

7317. Is the chief difficulty in the way of European emigration the expense of it?—No, it is not confined to that; there are many circumstances that interfere with the success of European emigration. The Europeans that go there avoid those parts of the island which are healthy, and are fond of resorting to the towns upon the coast, which are extremely unhealthy, and they fall into habits of intemperance, which must soon destroy an European in that country. There is a degree of discomfort on their first going to the island which prevents their settling themselves, probably in a great measure owing to the natural restlessness and discontent which may have carried them there originally.

7318. From the causes you have mentioned, the experiment of European emigration as tried up to this time, has been considered to have failed?—I consider so, certainly.

7319. But you apprehend that there have been exceptions to that general statement, and that there have been instances in which Europeans have done well in Jamaica?—There have been several instances.

7320. You are understood to state as your opinion, that supposing parties to be properly located in the island, and to be prudent in their habits, Europeans might labour with advantage in those parts of the island which are favourable to European constitutions?—The greater part of the island, the whole of the interior of the island, may be described as such.

7321. Under what superintendence and control would you recommend that immigration should be conducted?—I am inclined to think that it had better be under the control of the Legislature and the Government of the colony.

7322. From what sources would you suggest that the large expenditure which would be necessary for that extensive immigration should be defrayed?—I am not aware that there are any parties capable of defraying it, unless this country would take it up, which I suppose is not probable.

7323. Have you ever directed your attention to what you think the unavoidable expense of immigration would be per head from the coast of Africa?—I have. The introduction of immigrants from Africa, I think, would be at the rate of 6*l.* to 8*l.* a man, as far as I can judge.

7324. The statements which have been made before this Committee have been to the effect that in some instances it has cost 10*l.*, but that the lowest calculation

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is about 6*l.* 10*s.* per head?—£.6. 10*s.* is the lowest I have seen, and therefore I took 8*l.* as a medium. When I was asked what parties were capable of undertaking the expense of immigration, I understood the question to allude to the great expense which I myself had in contemplation respecting European immigration. With regard to the expense of importing immigrants from Africa, I am inclined to think that the colony would be able to undertake that expense; either individuals or the colony.

7325. You do not despair of funds being found in the colony to defray the expense, great as it would be, of a sufficient extent of immigration?—No, I should not despair of that.

7326. What would be the condition of the African immigrants when they arrived in Jamaica?—They would immediately find wages such as they would desire, and their condition would be in every respect comfortable. Those that have arrived there have found themselves very well off from the moment of their arrival; they have been very comfortably provided for by the proprietors of the land.

7327. They have been well treated for the most part?—Certainly.

7328. There has been nothing in their condition inconsistent with their station as freemen?—Nothing whatever.

7329. Do you think that the provisions of the present law are such as to afford adequate security for the protection of all immigrants, both during their voyage and on their arrival in the colony?—I do.

7330. Is it your opinion that any revision of the laws which now regulate the relation between labourer and employer, with a view of rendering them more stringent in enforcing continuous labour, could be advantageously made?—I should think not. It is my opinion that there ought to be no attempt at greater stringency in enforcing labour; that anything of the kind would produce great discontent and dissatisfaction throughout the island.

7331. Do you think that any such enactments would produce evils which would more than counterbalance any possible advantage that could result from them?—Undoubtedly much greater evils than could be counterbalanced by any possible advantage.

7332. Will you have the goodness to state what evils you would anticipate from such a measure?—The extreme dissatisfaction of the population at any such attempts, and the adverse feelings which would be created against the proprietors of land. It would be considered as a sort of return to the system of slavery, which it is obviously most desirable to avoid any notion of; and I am of opinion, besides, that it is not in any respect necessary.

7333. Supposing such restrictions to be made upon moderate principles, and with a strict regard to the rights of the labourers as freemen, and to be merely for the necessary protection of the planters from those evils under which they now suffer, do not you think that such discontent as you have described would be temporary in its nature, and pass away?—Undoubtedly, if it was ultimately found that there was no evil from it, the discontent would pass away, but in the meantime it would have very bad effects.

7334. When you state that you think that there is no occasion for it, is not it the fact that the planter suffers greatly from the caprice of the labourer, and from the perfect power of the labourer to do what he likes with regard to continuous work?—Undoubtedly he does, but I do not see how that can be remedied in the nature of things; it is the necessary consequence of the state of things which exists, that is, the want of a sufficiently numerous population to labour.

7335. Is not the present prosperous and thriving and wealthy condition of the negro very much obtained at the expense of the fair rights of the planter, as the employer of labour?—No, I do not know that it is obtained at the expense of any fair rights of any other party; it is the consequence of the fair rights of the negro himself. I do not see that it is in any respect unjust towards any other parties that it should be so; it appears to me to be the natural result of the state of things which there is, of a population inadequate in amount to the demands for labour, and which is able to obtain the means of subsistence without labour; and I apprehend that in any part of the world where those circumstances existed, the same consequences would follow, without there being any injustice to any other party whatever.

7336. There can be no doubt that the existing laws regarding the relation between

tween the labourer and employer are amply sufficient for the protection of the labouring population?—I should say so.

7337. Do you think that they are amply sufficient for the protection in all cases of the employer of labour?—I conceive that they are, consistently with just and right principles; I am not aware that they could, with any propriety, be made more coercive than they are.

7338. Is not the remuneration of labour in the colony of Jamaica excessive?—It is excessive, in so far as it is found too expensive for the estates to afford. That is the only point in which it is excessive; I do not know that it is otherwise excessive.

7339. Do you think it is in the power of the planter in any degree to check the evils under which he suffers without at all infringing upon the just rights of the free workmen, by diminishing the remuneration of labour?—I do not see that he can diminish the remuneration of labour so long as the population is so scanty; it must find its level in the market.

7340. Do not you think that the system, which appears in the evidence before the Committee to be in many cases unlimited, of granting provision grounds to the labourers, might be restricted with advantage to the planter?—They might restrict it themselves, and I should think that they would have done right to have done so; but I find that whatever objections may be made to the system, it is almost universally adopted, and to this day persisted in, although the disadvantages of it have been perceived. I consider it to be the act of the proprietors themselves, which they alone are capable of altering.

7341. Would it not be very much for their advantage if some check were placed upon the system by themselves, for their own protection?—Their labour would have been more continuous, and undoubtedly much more constant, if the negroes had not those grounds; but I found almost universally that even to this day, in general, the proprietors enter into that arrangement.

7342. Are not the profits of those grounds so great as to make them almost, if not quite, independent of the money wages which they receive for labour?—Certainly, in a great degree.

7343. The Committee have been led to suppose from the evidence which has been given before them, that the profits of the cultivation of land in that country are so great, that a negro with two acres of provision ground, which is no uncommon quantity, is able, after maintaining his family, to derive an income of some 50 *l.* or 60 *l.* a year from that source; is that consistent with your knowledge upon the subject?—It is consistent with the information which I have received upon the subjeet, but I cannot vouch for its accuracy, having no experience of my own in those matters, but it is consistent with frequent opinions which I have heard upon the subject.

7344. Is the judicial system in Jamaica adequate and satisfactory?—I conceive that it is.

7345. During your stay in the island as Governor has any addition been made to the means of religious instruction of the negroes?—Great addition; the number of curates in the different parishes has been doubled during the period of my administration.

7346. Has any great addition been made during the same period to the means of general instruction?—Additions are often being made.

7347. Are you of opinion that the existing means both of religious and general instruction are abundantly sufficient for the population of Jamaica?—I consider that there is still a considerable demand for more, both of religious and general instruction.

7348. When you use the word "demand," are the Committee to understand you to mean that the present means are not sufficient for the population, or that there is on the part of the negro population a great craving and desire for further general and religious instruction?—I mean that the present means are not fully adequate, but that there is room for addition.

7349. Are those means in a gradual course of increase at this time?—I imagine that they are; I think there is a continual increase in that respect.

7350. Will you state what is your opinion of the results of the emancipation, as affecting the characters and habits of the negro population, and what has been their progress in civilization?—I think it is in the highest degree satisfactory.

7351. Do you think that their progress in civilization has been rapid?—I feel some difficulty in answering that question accurately; whether their progress has been

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been rapid or not I cannot venture to say, but I believe they are improving continually.

7352. Their general character and habits you consider improved by the consequences of emancipation?—I have no doubt of their general improvement.

7353. Are they possessed to any great extent of property?—They are acquiring it rapidly.

7354. As one result of the increased acquisition of property, are their political rights and powers increasing to any great extent?—Undoubtedly; by the purchase of property they acquire the elective franchise, and their political influence is necessarily extending itself.

7355. Do you anticipate any danger from the increased and increasing extent of their political rights and privileges?—No, I do not.

7356. Is it your opinion that it would be expedient or just to effect any alteration in the system of taxation in Jamaica, so as to make it fall more directly upon the negroes, and thus to throw an impediment in the way of the accumulation of property by them?—I think it would be exceedingly unjust to adopt it with any such view.

7357. Viscount *Howick.*] You were understood to say that you consider that the difficulty with respect to the want of labour, cannot be met by direct legislation, for the purpose of compelling the negroes to labour more?—Yes, that is my opinion.

7358. Do you think it would be desirable by indirect methods to place them in such a situation that they would be forced to give a greater amount of labour to the planters?—I am not aware of any measures that could be adopted that would have that effect.

7359. The difficulty which at present exists arises from the disproportion which the amount of labour bears to the amount of land and of capital?—I conceive so.

7360. There is a much greater demand for labour than supply?—Certainly.

7361. And that circumstance makes the labourer practically more independent of his employer than is desirable?—Undoubtedly.

7362. Do you think it would be desirable, supposing it possible, by any indirect measures so to alter the situation of the labourer that he might find it necessary, in order to live as well as he has been accustomed to do, to perform a greater amount of labour?—I do not think it would be desirable to adopt any measures with that view.

7363. The question does not refer to any direct measures of coercion, but the Committee have been informed that the negro, by working three or four days in the week, can live as well as he has been used to do; do you think it would be desirable that he should find it necessary to work a greater amount of labour in the week in order to have his accustomed command over the comforts and necessaries of life?—I confess I do not think it desirable that any measures should be adopted which would diminish his comforts in any respect.

7364. The question does not contemplate any diminution of his comforts, but whether it would be desirable that, in order to obtain the advantages which he enjoys, he should find it necessary to perform a larger amount of labour?—In one point of view, certainly, it would be desirable; but how that could be obtained without unjust measures I do not know.

7365. The negro at present does much less work in the course of the week than the labouring population of any full-peopled country?—He labours well, I think. I am not aware that he does less labour, but he does not give up the whole of his labour to those who employ him; he labours for himself also.

7366. But counting the labour which he does for himself and that which he does for wages, is it the case or not that he performs a less amount of labour in a given time than a labouring man in this country, for instance, performs?—I am hardly able to answer that question from my own knowledge, but from what I have understood, I should suppose that he does perform less labour than a labouring man in this country. But on the whole, the negro is a very good labourer, I conceive, notwithstanding.

7367. Are you acquainted with the financial condition of the colony at present?—Generally, in such manner as it came under my cognizance as Governor.

7368. Do you conceive that the present taxes press very severely upon the planters?—I conceive that they do; I consider the island of Jamaica very heavily taxed.

7369. And

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7369. And that the nature of that taxation is such as to make it bear very much upon those persons who are engaged in producing the exportable produce of the island?—It does certainly, I believe. It falls upon all classes, but it falls upon them very heavily.

7370. Do you think there would be any objection to an alteration of the taxation, with the view of relieving the planters and making the taxation fall more upon the labouring population?—I do not exactly see in what manner that could be effected. I should not recommend any measure that would designedly throw greater taxation upon the labouring population; I would have equal and fair taxation for all.

7371. You state that there is at this moment a diminution in the amount of available labour in consequence of the gradual purchase of land by the labourers; you are probably aware that a similar state of things has existed in many other colonies, such as New South Wales. Do you see any objection to financial measures having for their object rather to check that tendency, and to keep a certain proportion of the population in the situation of hired labourers?—I confess that I should see an objection to any measures that had that as their object.

7372. Do you not conceive that it is to the advantage of the colony generally, and therefore of the labouring population also, that there should be the means of carrying on that description of cultivation which can only be carried on by hired labour?—Undoubtedly.

7373. You consider it important to the civilization and future welfare of the negroes?—Undoubtedly.

7374. Such being the case, would it not be for the ultimate benefit of the negroes if measures were adopted with a view of checking the progress of those causes which must ultimately tend to put an end to this system of hired labour?—I should, I confess, think it objectionable to adopt any measures with a view to coercion in that respect.

7375. The question does not refer to anything in the nature of coercion; but you are probably aware that in the Australian colonies, for the purpose of checking this tendency of the whole population to occupy land upon their own account, the practice has of late years been introduced of selling the land instead of giving it away, the principle of the measure being to make land dearer; do you conceive that the same principle which has been applied with reference to white labourers in the Australian colonies might not be applied also with reference to the negro labourers in Jamaica?—If a similar measure were applicable, I should think it might be; but no such measure appears to me to be applicable in Jamaica, for the negro does not obtain land without either paying rent for it or purchasing it.

7376. The Committee understand that at present in Jamaica the greater part of the island has been granted by the Crown, and is in the hands of private individuals?—Almost the whole of the island is in the hands of private individuals.

7377. And not more than a fourth or a fifth of the land can be profitably cultivated, in consequence of the smallness of the population?—Exactly so.

7378. Hence the competition of different owners of land amongst themselves necessarily makes the land cheap to the negro who wishes to purchase or to hire it; that is a state of things which no combination amongst the planters can put an end to, because it is impossible to maintain a permanent combination amongst so large a number of persons to keep up the price of land: under these circumstances, do you think there would be any impropriety in applying the principle which has been adopted in Australia in a different form to the island of Jamaica, by laying a taxation upon the land?—I think there would be some impropriety in it.

7379. What would be the objection to that course?—It being a measure adopted for the purpose of preventing the negroes from acquiring land, or of making it less advantageous to them to acquire land, I think there would be some impropriety in that. I am not sure that I understand the intention of the question; but it appears to me, that anything that should diminish their power of obtaining land must be considered unjust towards them.

7380. It is conceived that the present difficulty of carrying on the sugar cultivation in Jamaica arises, to a considerable extent, from the too great independence of the negroes, owing to the facility of obtaining land, and the very great demand for their labour?—There is do doubt upon that point, certainly.

7381. And you were understood to state it to be your opinion that it is for the

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real interests of the negroes themselves that the sugar cultivation should, if possible, be maintained?—No doubt.

7382. Under those circumstances, would there be any real objection to the adoption of a system of taxation, the effect of which should be to relieve the planter, in part, from one of the charges which now press heavily upon him, and at the same time not to prevent the negro from obtaining land, but somewhat to increase the difficulty of his doing so?—I confess I do not see how such a system of taxation could be adopted with justice towards the other party. It appears to me that that would be an exclusive system in favour of the one party, and against the other.

7383. You have stated that you foresee no danger from the acquisition of political power by the negroes?—Generally speaking, I should say so.

7384. It appears probable, from the statement you have made, that in a short time they will have a preponderating influence in the Assembly?—I am not sure of that; it will take time to effect that; but I suppose eventually they must, as voters, be able to return members to the Assembly. Whether theirs will be the preponderating influence will depend on many circumstances, particularly on the state of feeling between them and the proprietors of land; between them and what may be termed the upper classes.

7385. There is an immense preponderance of numbers on the part of the negroes?—In numbers there is an immense preponderance.

7386. The labourers are rapidly acquiring freeholds, which entitle them to the elective franchise?—They are.

7387. Therefore if they exercise that power, in the course of no very great number of years they will be able to return the majority of the Assembly?—They will certainly, numerically, but under what influence will remain to be shown hereafter.

7388. Do you think the negroes are at present so far advanced in intelligence and civilization that they may not be deluded by persons who may happen to possess an influence over them to make a dangerous use of the power placed in their hands?—That is undoubtedly possible.

7389. In the island of Jamaica is it not the practice for all money grants to begin with the Assembly?—It is.

7390. They are not originally recommended by the Crown?—Not in the least.

7391. Is there not also a permanent committee of the Assembly which exercises powers with respect to the finances, which in this country belong to the Executive Government?—There is.

7392. What is the name of that committee?—The Committee of Accounts.

7393. Has the Committee of Accounts the power of expending considerable sums of money, with very little check on the part of the Executive Government?—I do not think that it has the power of expending money; it is more a committee of audit of accounts; I do not think that it has the power of expending money, or of voting any money, but what is voted by the House. It takes on itself sometimes to do things which are afterwards confirmed by the House, but I think its power is more limited than that.

7394. Of the various descriptions of public services which are provided for by the votes of the Assembly, is not the detail of the expenditure managed either by the Committee of Accounts, or by commissioners appointed by the Assembly?—The general mode is, that the Assembly votes the money, and the receiver-general, who is an officer of the colony, though appointed by the Crown, pays the money, and the Committee of Accounts audits his accounts. That is the usual process of the disbursement of such grants.

7395. Under whose orders do the payments take place; under those of the Governor and the officers under him, or under those of the Committee of Accounts?—Under neither; the grant having been made by the House of Assembly, the receiver-general is bound to pay it, and the Committee of Accounts audits his accounts.

7396. There must be some person who must manage the expenditure for the different things which are required, and present the bills for payment. Under whose authority is that done; is it by the Governor or by persons nominated by the Assembly?—It becomes the duty of the receiver-general as soon as the grant is made by the Legislature; the receiver-general does not require any further order than the knowledge of such grant.

7397. There

7397. There are no warrants signed by the Governor for the different services which are presented to the receiver-general for payment?—No.

7398. There is nothing in Jamaica analogous to the system in this country, where all the supplies are grants to the Crown by Parliament, and the whole expenditure is carried on under the authority of the Crown?—No, there is not.

7399. The expenditure is entirely carried on under the authority of the Assembly, with very little interference on the part of the Governor?—It is under the authority of the Legislature. The grant of the Assembly must be confirmed by the Council and the Governor; it originates with the Assembly, and becomes an Act of the whole Legislature, and then the receiver-general is the proper officer of the disbursement, and his accounts are audited by the Committee of Accounts. There is nothing resembling what is the practice in this country.

7400. With reference to the police, and other expenses of that kind, is there not a grant for the total expense by the Assembly?—There is.

7401. By what authority is the money so granted for the general expense of the police, applied to the several charges which constitute that expense?—Under the authority of the superintendent-general of police.

7402. The superintendent-general of police subdivides the total amount of the grant, and applies it in the manner which he thinks best?—Not at all; the whole is fixed by the grant itself; the allowances of the different officers and privates of the police force are all specified in the original grant, and the chief of the establishment draws upon the receiver-general for the amount.

7403. But there must be contracts made for clothing, and various expenses of different kinds, which must be provided for by a general grant; upon whom does the management of all that business devolve?—With regard to the police, on the superintendent of police, in some degree under the authority of the Governor.

7404. In each head of service, in like manner, does one of the officers of the government apply the money to the purposes for which it is granted by the Assembly?—Exactly so, each in his own department.

7405. Are those different officers responsible to the Governor, and liable to be removed by him for misconduct?—It depends upon the office. For instance, the superintendent of police is entirely so; others are nominated from this country, and are not under the authority of the Governor.

7406. Then the detailed application of the money to the services for which it is required never devolves upon the Committee of Accounts, or upon any committee of the Assembly?—There are three or four committees. There is the Committee of Accounts, which consists of members of the Assembly; there is the Committee of Public Works, which consists of the Governor and Council and members of the Assembly; there is the Committee of Forts and Fortifications, which consists of the Governor and Council and members of the Assembly; then there is the Committee of Correspondence, which consists of members of the Council and of the Assembly, who correspond with this country. The Board of Works has its own disbursements; all public buildings are under that Board, and all disbursements on that account are made by the authority of the Board of Works. It has not been customary for the Governor to take his seat in the Board of Works, but he is a member of the committee; the members of the Council do not often take their seats there; it is generally attended only by members of the House of Assembly; but the constitution is the Governor, Council, and members of the Assembly. All the disbursements for public works and the charge of public buildings are under that Board. The forts and fortifications are under another Board, which I have described, and no orders are passed without the signature of the Governor.

7407. Is the expenditure on account of the militia managed by any one of those committees?—I am not aware of any public expenditure on account of the militia.

7408. Since emancipation, has that expenditure been discontinued to a great degree?—The militia exists, but I cannot charge myself with the recollection of what the mode of disbursement is. If it is fixed by the Legislature, the disbursement would be by the receiver-general, through the hands of the proper officer; but I cannot at the present moment recollect what the mode of disbursement is with respect to the militia, or what the disbursements are, for it is a service carried on very much without disbursement, except at the expense of the individuals engaged in it.

7409. With respect to the supply of the British troops with what they require,

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that is now provided by the Home Government, not by the Assembly?—There are expenses by the local Legislature.

7410. There are still island allowances?—There are.

7411. How is that expenditure managed; is that by one of the committees?—No; the officers who are entitled to draw it, draw it from the receiver-general, and the receiver-general's accounts are audited by the Committee of Accounts.

7412. What is the authority to decide upon the different claims made upon those allowances and to sanction the claims and disbursements before they are paid?—A statement is sent in by the commander of the forces to the Governor, which receives the Governor's sanction, and then it is paid by the receiver-general.

7413. There are no supplies of any kind furnished now upon the authority of the Assembly to the troops in the island?—Not that I am aware of.

7414. They no longer supply them with provisions or bedding, or anything of that kind?—Not that I am aware of.

7415. It results from the evidence you have just given, that in the management of public works, and various other things, a Board, deriving its authority from the Assembly, performs executive duties connected with the expenditure of money, which in this country devolve upon the Executive Government?—Yes, certainly, but this Board is formed by the Legislature, not by the Assembly alone.

7416. Has your attention ever been drawn to the statements upon that subject, contained in a Report upon the Government of the North American Colonies, which was presented to Parliament two years ago?—I cannot say that I recollect it.

7417. Does it not appear to you that it is the tendency of the system of having the expenditure of money for any service of the Executive Government carried on under the authority of a popular representative body, to lead to extravagance and to various abuses?—I am not aware that, practically, in Jamaica it leads to extravagance or to abuses.

7418. You think that at present there are no abuses of any description?—I cannot call any to my recollection at present.

7419. You are probably aware that formerly, when the supply of the troops was managed by the Assembly, complaints were very loud upon that point?—I am not aware of that; I have no recollection of that circumstance.

7420. Does not it appear to you that, upon principle, it is dangerous and objectionable that duties of that kind should be performed by an authority derived from the Assembly, and not by the Executive Government?—I should think it an objection, with reference to what is the practice in this country, and under other governments, but I see nothing dangerous in it.

7421. *Chairman.*] Do you not think it might be beneficial that the same change should be effected in Jamaica which has already been effected in Canada, of making it necessary that money grants should originate with the Crown?—I think it would be very objectionable to attempt that as an experiment now in Jamaica.

7422. Are the estimates of the expenditure for the year prepared by the Boards you have mentioned?—I think they are prepared in the Assembly.

7423. What officer or authority is responsible for the estimated expenditure of each year?—There are certain grants made by the Assembly, of which the Boards have the disbursement, such as the Board of Works and the Board of Forts and Fortifications. The Committee of Accounts is not a committee of disbursement.

7424. By whom are the grants estimated and proposed?—They are proposed by members of the Assembly.

7425. Unofficial members?—Unofficial members; there are no official members of the Assembly.

7426. Do not those members who propose the grants represent the Boards by whom the estimate is made; how is the amount generally ascertained?—It is determined in the Assembly what may be the proper amount, and what the country can afford for such and such purposes. Individual members generally undertake to bring forward particular questions.

7427. You have stated that you are opposed to any change in the system of taxation; does the present system of taxation fall at all upon the negro, however prosperous he may be?—It does; the taxes fall upon the negro.

7428. What direct taxation falls upon the negro?—I am not aware of any direct taxation upon the negro, except with regard to the land he may hold.

7429. As

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7429. As a holder of land, is he subject to taxation, whether general or local, in an equal proportion with other proprietors?—Exactly; he is liable to taxation in common with others; he is not exempt in any respect from taxation. In fact, there is no peculiar taxation in Jamaica for one class or another; they are all subject to equal taxation.

7430. According to his property and means, the negro is now taxed in the same proportion as proprietors are?—Yes, I should say so.

7431. Has your attention been at all directed, with reference to the possibility of its adoption in Jamaica, to what is called the *métarie* system of tenancy?—My attention has been called to it very recently, from this country.

7432. What is your opinion with reference to any benefit being likely to arise from the adoption of that system in Jamaica?—I am not aware of any particular benefit that would be derived from it. If parties find it their interest, I think they will adopt it.

7433. Has it been at all tried in Jamaica?—It can hardly be said to have been tried. I am not quite sure that I understand what is meant by the *métarie* system, unless it means a division of the crop between the proprietor and the labourer; I only recollect one instance of anything like that system. Hearing that there was something of that kind in one part of the island, I wrote to the gentleman to ascertain how it was going on, and he described to me what he had done; that he had established mills, and the negroes brought their sugar-cane to his mills to be ground and manufactured, and he divided the crop with them, he bearing a great proportion of the expense of manufacture, and they producing the cane, either from their own land or from land which he rented to them; that was nearest resemblance to it. It has not been adopted in any great degree in Jamaica.

7434. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] You sent that plan home in a letter to the Secretary of State?—I did.

7435. *Chairman.*] Do you think the tendency of such a system would be to make it more the interest of the negro to work industriously at the cultivation of the sugar-cane, and at the same time to yield a greater profit to the proprietor than he now derives from the present system?—Undoubtedly anything that induced the negro to work for his own benefit would, of course, increase his exertions.

7436. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Is it your opinion that the floating capital in Jamaica is adequate to secure a sufficient amount of labour to keep up the cultivation of the estates?—I am afraid there is a great want of capital in Jamaica at present.

7437. To what extent does the taxation of the colony bear upon the labouring population; does it press more heavily upon them in proportion than upon the proprietors?—I should think not, certainly.

7438. Do you think the absence of proprietors is a serious evil?—I do, certainly.

7439. Do you think that if proprietors were able to go out occasionally to visit their estates it would be attended with beneficial results?—I am not sure what results would be derived from their going out there occasionally to visit their estates, but if they remained on their estates and spent their money in the island, I am convinced the effect would be very good.

7440. Are many of the estates in Jamaica nearly worn out in the coffee and sugar districts?—I am not aware of that; there is so much land attached to every estate in Jamaica that I should hardly conceive that many estates are really worn out.

7441. Do you think that there are any estates which cannot be kept in cultivation under any system which might be adopted?—I am not aware that there are any estates which cannot be kept in cultivation.

7442. It appears by the evidence which the Committee have received, that crime has very much diminished since the total emancipation; is that consistent with your knowledge of the state of things?—I am not quite sure of that; but it is a difficult point to ascertain that. Shortly before I left Jamaica, I had a statement prepared of crime, that is to say, of convictions, for the last three years, and that showed that crime was on the increase, as far as that statement went: but then it is very uncertain whether before that time there were not many crimes which were not brought to notice which are now brought to notice. Formerly a great deal of crime was disposed of on the estates, and now of course everything is brought to notice by the police; and therefore I am not quite sure,

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but as far as I can tell from the statement I received, there has in the last three years been rather an increase of crime.

7443. To what do you attribute that increase of crime?—I really do not know, except to the wickedness of human nature.

7444. The Committee have been informed that the condition of the negroes is very much improved, and that their moral and religious character is very much better than it was; does not it appear rather strange, therefore, that crime should have increased?—Undoubtedly; and I cannot account for the state of things, for they are freed from that instigation to crime which is supposed to arise from poverty, for any industrious man can procure his livelihood if he chooses; the crime must be the result of pure wickedness.

7445. Do you happen to know how many immigrants have been introduced?—I do not at present recollect the number, but I should suppose within 2,000, of all kinds.

7446. Have any sums of money been voted by the Assembly for that purpose?—The first vote of the Assembly for immigration was 50,000*l.* per annum for three years; that, however, has been reduced by a subsequent vote of the Assembly, and it is now much more limited; I think 20,000*l.* in all is the limit of the last grant for immigration.

7447. If immigrants could be introduced into Jamaica, how many do you suppose would be necessary to keep up the cultivation; supposing they were introduced to the extent of 3,000, or 4,000, or 5,000 per annum, do you suppose it would require, in the whole, 40,000 or 50,000?—I should think the demand would be constantly increasing; that more land would be constantly brought into cultivation. A great portion of the island is uncultivated; and in proportion as labour was introduced, more land would be cultivated, and there would be a constantly increasing demand, and if cultivated with success, capital would flow to the island; and the whole island, instead of being in a great degree uncultivated, would become fully cultivated, and it is impossible to calculate the number that might be required to supply the want.

7448. You were understood to state, that supposing immigrants could be introduced gradually into the island, you think that in all probability it would be able to bear the expense, with advantage to the proprietors?—Yes, I should think it might.

7449. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] What has been the conduct of the immigrants who have been hitherto introduced?—It has been perfectly satisfactory.

7450. Does any jealousy subsist between them and the other labouring population of the island?—Nothing in the way of jealousy; there has been occasionally a little competition of labour.

7451. No strife or ill-will?—No, nothing of that kind.

7452. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Do you think they would be likely to adopt the same habits which the negroes have, and to take to the cultivation of provision grounds?—Undoubtedly they would, and I believe in some instances they have already done so; but that is with the consent of those who employ them, who consider it to be for their own advantage to allow them to do so.

7453. Do you think means might be devised to control that if necessary?—No, I think it very difficult to control that; it is in the hands of the proprietor himself to control it.

7454. *Chairman.*] Do not you think it probable that a continued system of independent settlement on the part of the negroes might very much check the advantages to be derived from any immigration, however numerous?—It would certainly check the advantage; it would require that the supply should be kept up equal to the demand.

7455. Have you ever directed your attention to the possibility of deriving a supply of labour from the United States of America?—That has been a part of the attempt made to introduce immigrants into Jamaica; we have looked to the United States of America.

7456. Do you imagine, from your information upon the subject, that there is any reasonable probability of deriving a large supply from that source?—I fear not; from the result of the experiments which have been made, I rather think the labourer in the United States is, in a pecuniary way, better off than he would be in Jamaica.

7457. The demand for labour in the United States is so great that they would not benefit themselves by coming to the West Indies?—Apparently not.

7458. Have

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7458. Have not there been instances in which labourers have come from the United States to the West Indies, and finding that the experiment did not answer, have returned?—There have been.

7459. Has the attempt ever been made of purchasing negroes from the proprietors in the Southern States of North America, with a view to introduce them as free labourers into the West Indies?—Not that I am aware of.

7460. Do you think such an experiment as that might have a successful result?—It would depend upon the expense to the parties who introduced them.

7461. Viscount *Howick.*] Might it not be done by considering the price paid for their purchase and emancipation as an advance to them, which they might discharge by degrees out of their wages?—It appears to me that there has always been a great objection on the part of any immigrants in Jamaica to return any money advanced on their account.

7462. Do you not conceive that there are many of those now in a state of slavery in America, who, if they were told that they could obtain freedom upon no other terms, would be glad to enter into an engagement of that kind, by which they should be purchased and carried to Jamaica, and then by instalments repay the purchase-money?—I should think they would be glad enough to enter into the arrangement; but as to what the result would be after they went to Jamaica, I should not be so sanguine.

7463. Are not the wages in Jamaica sufficient to enable them by degrees, without any difficulty, to repay the sum so advanced, by instalments?—If it were at all a moderate sum, certainly.

7464. And if there was an arrangement for stopping it out of their wages, might it not be rendered extremely difficult for them to evade it?—It might certainly be legally enforced.

7465. Do you not consider that an immigration of negroes from the United States, speaking the English language, and to a certain degree civilised, would be much more desirable than an immigration from the coast of Africa of entirely uncivilized Africans?—I am not sure. Africans from the coast of Africa are found to answer very well.

7466. Those hitherto obtained have been chiefly from Sierra Leone, possessing some knowledge of the English language?—Yes, I believe so, though not universally; I believe some have come who have had no knowledge of the English language.

7467. *Chairman.*] It has been stated that there is in Jamaica a law restricting the labourer from cultivating sugar or coffee, and also prohibiting the sale of coffee or sugar under a certain amount; do you know of any such law?—There is no law that I am aware of prohibiting the cultivation of sugar and coffee on any properties; there was a law respecting the retail sale of sugar and coffee, which might affect the sale of it in some measure, but that, I believe, has been quite nugatory.

7468. Is the Hawkers and Pedlers Act the law to which you have just adverted?—No; I rather think there was another law.

7469. Is there any law still in operation to prevent the sale by the negro of a limited quantity of sugar and coffee?—I think not; I think it was not renewed in the last session, it was found to be altogether nugatory while it lasted; it was so easily evaded that it was perfectly nugatory.

7470. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Is the amount of parochial taxation very large in Jamaica?—Very large.

7471. By whom is it levied?—By the vestries.

7472. Who disburses it?—The local authorities.

7473. It is satisfactorily managed?—That is a disputed question; some attempts have been made to bring the parochial expenditure more under the cognizance of the legislature than hitherto

7474. Has any provision been made by the legislature of Jamaica for the support of the poor?—I am not aware of any law to that effect. There are, in fact, no poor at present in Jamaica.

7475. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Have you ever turned your attention to any other sources from whence immigrants might be obtained than those which have been mentioned, Africa, Europe, and the United States. The question alludes to the East Indies?—My attention, of course, has been turned to that quarter as well as to others. The difficulty appeared to me to be the distance. The mortality that might take place upon a long voyage would be the chief objection. The voyage

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from the East Indies round the Cape would be so long that it always struck me that there was a difficulty upon that account.

7476. If the difficulty of the passage could be overcome, what is your opinion of the possibility of the Hill Coolies working in Jamaica?—I have no doubt they would work perfectly well.

7477. Do you think they would associate well with the present inhabitants of the island?—I see no reason why they should not, for all classes associate together in Jamaica.

7478. From your previous acquaintance with their habits in the East, you do not think there would be anything impossible for them to conform to in the island of Jamaica?—Nothing whatever, that I am aware of.

7479. But you apprehend that the difficulties arising from the length of the passage would be so great, that no considerable supply could be obtained from that quarter?—That has always appeared to me to be the chief objection to the attempt.

7480. Sir *C. Douglas.*] Do you suppose that as the people become more civilised, in process of time there will be a better understanding between the labourer and the planter, and that consequently there will be a greater disposition among the labouring population to work?—There appears to me to be a very good understanding even now between the labourer and the planter, and I should hope that would go on improving.

7481. Then do you anticipate that the children, who, as the Committee have been informed, have hitherto been taught by their parents that they ought not to work, will learn by-and-by to work, and will take to habits of industry?—I conceive that they must take to habits of industry, unless they can be proprietors themselves; unless their parents can leave them in the possession of the means of subsistence, they must find the means of subsisting themselves, which can only be effected by labour.

Jovis, 14° *die Julii*, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Viscount Chelsea.	Mr. Hawes.
Sir Charles Douglas.	Mr. Vernon Smith.
Mr. Godson.	

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

GRENADA, ST. VINCENT.

H. J. Ross, Esq.

14 July 1842.

Henry James Ross, Esq. called in; and Examined.

7482. *Chairman.*] HAVE you at any time resided in the West Indies?—Yes, I have.

7483. In which colony?—In Grenada and in St. Vincent's.

7484. In which of the two colonies have you principally resided?—Principally in Grenada.

7485. How long have you returned from that colony?—I returned in June, last year.

7486. Have you published a pamphlet upon the subject of a particular system of tenancy in the West Indies, which is very commonly known by the name of the *métairie* system?—I have not heard it called by that term, but as the share or allotment system.

7487. Have you yourself practically carried that system into operation?—I have, upon my own estate in Grenada.

7488. Have you carried it on principally with reference to the cultivation of coffee and cocoa?—Of coffee and cocoa.

7489. Have you ever applied, or known it to be applied, to the cultivation of sugar?—I know that it is partially applied in Grenada, in the instances I have alluded to in my pamphlet; but upon a very small scale.

7490. Do you consider that it is applicable, with equal benefit and advantage, to the cultivation of sugar?—I think so, most unquestionably.

7491. Will

7491. Will you state to the Committee any details with reference to that particular system of tenancy, which you think may be interesting to the Committee to hear, as bearing upon the present state and prospects of the West Indies?—I do not profess to be a sugar planter, and whatever suggestions I have made in the pamphlet, I have made with the greatest deference to wiser heads in plantership; but I think the great advantage of that system is, that it gives the negro something to gain and something to lose in the cultivation and conduct of an estate; I think the evil under which we at present labour is, that the negro has every thing to gain by his provision ground, and consequently nothing to gain by the prosperity of the estate and an increase of the staples; I think that is the difficulty with which we have to contend, with our scanty population, in colonies such as Grenada and St. Vincent, with which I am intimate. To get out of that difficulty, I think one of the best, of the various modes which have been suggested, is the share system; a system of which we have examples in different countries, so far as I have been able to ascertain, and which system I believe is now in operation in Hayti. I allude to a work which has been recently published by Mr. Candler, in which it is said that the share system is the predominant system in Hayti; in fact, I cannot myself conceive how any reasonable people could expect that the negroes would ever be satisfied with the wages system for some years after the abolition; for it is a system that savours of slavery to them, and which is exceedingly irksome to them, because it requires a round of continuous and steady labour. Under the wages system, the labour obtained is not satisfactory to the planter, nor is it so profitable to the negro as the provision cultivation. This provision cultivation we are obliged to accede to them because we cannot support them so well nor so cheaply, as we can by giving them grounds to support themselves.

7492. Will you be so good as to describe to the Committee the exact details of the share system which you carried into operation?—I began the system in 1840, and I began by giving a third of the staple produce. Then I found that all the people were only content to work upon the same principle, and I was obliged, at the request, first of one, and then of another, to extend the system to all; within six months I extended it to every man upon the estate who was capable of being at all trusted, giving to some one-fourth, and to some one-third, according to the situation of the pieces, and giving more or less land to them as they were more or less trustworthy. If I had not done that, my impression is, that they would have left the estate, and would not have been content to work upon the wages system. In fact I had suffered under all the evils under which I saw all my neighbours in the different parts of the colony suffering, and I did not think the labourers would remain much longer upon the estate, except upon a different arrangement.

7493. You had ground to complain of the want of continuous labour upon your estate previously?—In common with all my neighbours.

7494. You found, after the adoption of that system, that the labour was more continuous, and that the labourers were more industrious?—It was not then necessary that there should be continuous labour day-by-day, to be rung out by the bell, to rise at certain hours, and to work for a certain period every day; but if a man got his piece cleaned he might go away to his provision cultivation.

7495. What was the share of the labour of cultivation that was taken by the labourers under that system?—They took a fourth or a third of the produce.

7496. What was the labour they had to perform upon their part, in consideration of receiving that fourth or third of the produce?—They were to keep the pieces allotted to them clean, to weed them, they were to prune them, they were to keep out rats, which infest coffee and cocoa particularly, and which are exceedingly destructive (in fact will carry off a crop entirely unless guarded against). They were to pick the fruit whenever ripe, and to place it in barrels, and I undertook, on the part of the estate, having notice of the picking, to convey it to the *boucan*, the drying department at the mill, and then, upon its arrival, I pay them the value of a fourth in money, estimated at so much per lb.

7497. Did they do the entire cultivation?—They did the entire cultivation.

7498. Including the original planting?—Yes, that is another condition; they were to supply the vacant spots; the coffee fails constantly; the trees die and leave a great many vacant parts on the estate; they were to fill in those vacant spots.

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7499. The original planting, from the nature of the case, they could not have done?—Except in portions.

7500. They performed all the labour of the cultivation, and you on your part conveyed the produce to the mill and manufactured it?—Yes, I had nothing to do with the agricultural part.

7501. Do you find that system profitable to you as a proprietor?—I do; in fact the other was ruinous, and this gives some return.

7502. Does it give as much as you would derive from the cultivation of the estate under the former system, provided you could get an adequate supply of labour?—The estate had never produced anything for years till I established this system. There was an adequate supply of labour under the slavery system, but it never produced anything for 20 or 30 years.

7503. What was that owing to?—I suppose it was owing to the expensive system of slavery that was in force.

7504. You appear to have been a little unlucky in your estate?—It was not my estate till after the compensation-money was received, but I was connected with the estate, and therefore, I knew its history very well.

7505. Supposing the case of an estate that paid well in slavery, and that the supply of free labour at present was steady and continuous, do you think that your system would make the estate more or less profitable?—I think my system has a tendency to make it more profitable.

7506. Than it would be with continuous labour under the old system?—Yes.

7507. Up to this time you have spoken merely of cocoa and coffee plantations?—I have.

7508. Have you yourself had any personal experience of the application of this system to sugar estates?—No, I have not.

7509. Have you heard of its application in any instance to sugar estates?—No, I have not; its application to sugar estates is quite new ground to me, but seeing the advantages of its application to coffee and to cocoa, I conceive that its application to sugar cultivation would be quite practicable, and that it would be much more profitable than the present system.

7510. Are you acquainted with the details of sugar cultivation?—I am not ignorant of the details of sugar cultivation.

7511. From your knowledge of the details of sugar cultivation, do you think that the system you have described might be applied to that cultivation with as much advantage as you have found from it in the cultivation of cocoa and coffee?—I think so; the giving the negro an interest in the result of the cultivation would tend to extend and increase the staple cultivation of sugar; at present, from the short supply of hands, and the indisposition of the negro, under the wages system, to the continuous labour of the staple cultivation, I see every tendency to ruin and decay.

7512. Did you give the negroes any definite tenure of the land which they cultivated?—I gave every man what is called a "paper," a lease upon a tenancy from year to year, but with an understanding and assurance that they never would be disturbed so long as they did their duty.

7513. What was the quantity of land held in each case?—I think the largest tenant held from eight to ten acres.

7514. And how much the smallest?—A quarter of an acre; a mere nominal thing; given to two or three lads of 18, who had no wife or children, and it comes down to almost nothing; but I wished to give every one some interest in the soil.

7515. Do you think the same quantities both with regard to the land held, and the proportion of produce given, wouldbe applicable to the cultivation of sugar?—No; I think it would be too much in some cases and too little in others; I think 10 acres would be too much, and a quarter of an acre too little, as applied to sugar cultivation.

7516. How much land would you recommend?—I would feel my way; if I had to establish it in sugar I would not do it altogether as I did in cocoa and coffee, because it is a greater risk, a larger speculation, but if I had a sugar estate I would try it with 20 acres; I would take half-a-dozen of the best men and try it with 20 acres or 18 acres, three acres each, and if they worked with that quantity then I would give them more.

7517. You think three acres would be about the quantity to which an industrious

trious labourer could do justice with sugar cultivation?—I think so, with his family; I suppose he would have his wife, and probably a child or two.

7518. What proportion of the produce would he receive; I would give him a fourth; but it would vary according to the different situations and the productive capacity and fertility of each estate.

7519. Would you pay the produce in money payment or in kind?—I would always make the negro give me the cane and pay him money for it directly; I would not trust him in any other way.

7520. You would pay him the money for the sugar when manufactured?—For the sugar when ground into cane juice.

7521. That would be the only money passing between the landlord and the tenant?—Yes; I would not trust him to pay me a money rent.

7522. You would look to three-fourths of the produce as rent, and one-fourth of the produce as that upon which the tenant is to live and prosper?—Exactly.

7523. Mr. *Godson*.] How do you calculate the fourth; that is to say, how does the negro know that he has got a fourth of the value of the coffee and cocoa?—The way they take the cocoa is this: first of all he has a barrel, an ordinary flour barrel, and he picks the cocoa into that; he breaks the pod, and drops the contents into the barrel, and when it is full, that is 100 lbs. merchantable, and he is at liberty to go to the magistrate to know whether I have told him right or wrong. I know that they have done so, and ascertained that it is right. The negro knows that a fourth of that at 2*d.* will give him just a dollar; I make the calculation for him, and then I tell him, Go to the magistrate and ask the value of a fourth of that; take him that paper, and show it to him, and ask him whether it is right that for every barrel you pick you shall have a dollar; that he understands, there is no difficulty about it.

7524. What is meant by the word "merchantable;" is that the price in the island, or the price in England?—The island price.

7525. By what document, or by what market, is the regulation price made?—It is the average market price; I fixed the price when I made the bargain with the people; I fixed that as the average price at which cocoa was selling in the island.

7526. At what time of the year do you fix the price?—I fixed it at the first; I made that price a fixed price, not varying.

7527. Is it to apply for one year, or two years, or three years?—Altogether; it is a fixed price; I do not feel myself at liberty to alter it at all.

7528. For one year or ten years?—Yes.

7529. Whatever may be the price in the market?—Yes; whether in the case of sugar, the price ought to vary or not, would be another question, but I fixed that price because it came to a dollar a barrel, and the negroes seemed pleased with it, and I thought it was a good way of settling it.

7530. How many years have the negroes been upon that system?—Two years.

7531. Supposing there is no crop at all, that from the season the crop fails, is the negro to have nothing for his labour?—Nothing at all.

7532. How is he to maintain himself?—Oh, there is no difficulty in the negro maintaining himself on an estate in the West Indies; the difficulty is that he is so easily maintained; he is never distressed for money, or clothing, or provisions, or house, or medicine, or medical attendance.

7533. Are there not parishes in the West Indies in which, in dry seasons, there are no provisions raised at all?—No; speaking with reference to the islands with which I am acquainted.

7534. You do not mean to inform the Committee that there are not sugar parishes in which, when there is dry weather, and nothing would be got by the sugar, the provision grounds themselves would be burnt up; if that be so, what would the negro do in such a case?—I do not suppose that to be the fact either in Trinidad, in Guiana, in St. Vincent, in Grenada, in St. Lucia, or in many some other islands; it may be so in Antigua and in Barbadoes perhaps.

7535. Why have you left out Jamaica?—I do not know anything of Jamaica; but I should think it was not very probable in Jamaica, from what I have heard, that the provision grounds would be burnt up as well as the sugar.

7536. Then are the Committee to understand that in sugar parishes, when the season is so bad as to burn up the canes, the provision grounds will still

continue beneficial to the negro?—All that I mean to say is, that the provisions will not suffer to the same extent as the cane, and that a drought which will ruin the cane may not touch the provisions.

7537. You give the negro a fourth of the produce at a fixed price, how often have you to replant the tree itself?—The coffee tree will last 50 or 60 years.

7538. How long will the sugar cane last; when is it necessary to put in the sugar cane?—In Trinidad they ratoon 30 or 40 years; but in St. Vincent's and Grenada they do not ratoon longer than three years.

7539. Would it be part of your system that the negro should have the expense of digging the cane holes and putting the land into a proper state to receive the canes?—In some instances it would, and in others not.

7540. In what instances would you throw upon the negro in every third year the expense of putting in canes?—That would be according to the man; it would vary in different ways on different properties, in different situations, and with different people. One man you may trust to perform the whole operation, from the digging to the cutting of the canes; another man and his family you would not trust with the digging, but with every other operation; and then another man you would trust with only two out of the other operations.

7541. Supposing a field without a single plant in it, and to be let to the negro, or three acres of it, what would be the expense to the negro for three years of putting in the cane?—That is a question of extraordinary difficulty; because I must calculate how many days' labour during that period the negro has to apply to it, and what is the value of labour in each colony; perhaps it is half a dollar a day in Demerara, and 7 ½ *d.* in St. Vincent.

7542. Do you represent to the Committee that it is such a very difficult thing to know how much is the expense of planting an acre of canes?—No.

7543. What is the expense of planting an acre of canes?—I am not competent to answer that question as applied to any single island; when the question is put in that broad and general way it cannot be answered; it involves the price that the man puts upon his labour, and the number of days' labour required by him to do it in each colony.

7544. *Chairman.*] Do you know in any one island in the West Indies what it would cost to carry on the first process of sugar cultivation by planting canes?—That is a matter of calculation which I cannot precisely answer on the moment.

7545. Mr. *Godson.*] Would it not be as much as 7*l.* or 8*l.* sterling per acre?—No, I do not think it would be anything like that. The question involves the number of days' labour that are to be applied to it, and the value of the whole of that labour by the day. By the system that I suggest, the man will apply his own labour, and he will apply the labour of his wife, which will go for nothing, and he will apply the labour of his children, for which there will be no charge, therefore in the system I suggest, much labour will be given without any pay.

7546. The question is this: taking a piece of land with nothing upon it, and saying to the negro and his family, There are three acres of land, now get through the process of putting in the canes, what would be an equivalent for the very first act of sugar cultivation, namely, putting in the canes into the field; in other words, what would the planter have to pay him if he paid him in wages?—I have made no calculation of the kind, and I cannot now answer the question, but, of course, the expense will vary in different islands.

7547. Whether it is 5*l.*, or whether it is any other sum of money, supposing the crop of sugar to fail, and the plants to fail altogether, and it be necessary to renew them all the next year, would that be a good system for the negro for him to have the expense of all the first putting in of the cane thrown upon him?—It would be a disaster certainly, upon the negro.

7548. With respect to coffee upon your estate, are the trees topped at the time they are given up to the negroes, or are they in their natural state?—The trees are all intended for a certain height.

7549. Were they in a state of nature at the time you gave them up to the negroes in the manner you have described, or were they topped?—They were growing in the usual way, and suckers coming up to the tops. They will become a wilderness, unless looked to, in a very short time.

7550. Can you not state whether they were topped, or whether they were in the free state of nature, when given up to the negroes?—The trees generally had been topped, and they were pruned to a certain extent; some had been

allowed

allowed to grow up into a state of nature, they will have shoots as high as this room, unless looked to. They had been very much neglected.

7551. *Chairman.*] You stated that the system of paying labourers in wages savours of slavery; will your explain what you mean by that?—Of slavery in the negro's sense of it; he looks upon the wages system, which compels him to turn out continually at the ringing of the bell at a certain hour, to be the same as slavery, and he detests it, and escapes from it whenever he can; but he likes to be a proprietor; he likes his own ground, and he will save all his money to buy an independent piece of land, which will not bind him to that strict obligation of hours.

7552. The taste of preferring to be a proprietor to that of working for wages is not limited to the negro population?—It is not; but it is inconceivably more the case in the negro mind than in that of the white man.

7553. Viscount *Chelsea.*] Would he not have the same amount of continuous labour to give under your system of cultivation, as he would under the present system of wages?—I do not think so; nor would he have anything to do with the manufacture; he would not have the same regular continuous labour.

7554. *Chairman.*] Supposing your system to be carried out, how is the proprietor to carry on his manufacture?—He will job his manufactory in the way he does now; he will have a certain set of people for that purpose; I do not conceive that there is any difficulty in the manufacturing department.

7555. Your system assumes that he will always be able to find a sufficient number of people to carry on the manufacture?—Yes; he may get white people or coloured people to carry on the manufacture.

7556. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You said that nobody had tried the system in the island of St. Vincent or in Trinidad, except yourself?—Not yet; but I have reason to suppose that it will be tried in Trinidad and elsewhere.

7557. Can you state whether or not it is looked upon favourably by your neighbours; do the people in the colony consider that you have succeeded?—The only information I have from Grenada is from the learned chief justice of that colony, who says, "It is not likely to be tried much here until the proprietors and mortgagees recommend it from home;" but with reference to Trinidad he says, "It has excited much attention there, and a great proprietor on the road to San José, namely Monsieur La Perouse, has determined to give it a fair trial without delay; it is more likely to succeed in his hands than in any man's known to me; I think Pasea will also try it," who is also a great proprietor, "and no doubt others;" I know that in St. Vincent it is about to be tried. The following is the extract of a letter dated Nevis, 21 May 1842, from Mrs. James Maynard, of Symonds Estate, making about 80 hogsheads of sugar, addressed to Messrs. Archd. Paull and Co., Leadenhall-street, London. "I received some weeks ago, a pamphlet by Mr. Ross, which I suppose you must have sent, and for which I am much obliged. I think the plan proposed by him very good; it has been in some measure adopted in this island, and from my own experience I can say that it has succeeded. Some of our people who planted small pieces of canes last year, got several barrels, which I bought from them at the general price, 4½ dollars per cwt. I intend giving them two or three pieces of ratoons to take care of. They all seem very anxious to get land, and all that is near enough to the works I shall endeavour to get cultivated. In some places the negroes get half the produce, they bearing all the expense of grinding, &c., the owner of the estate lending the works and the stock, which I think is a bad plan, as I do not like their having the stock under their control. We have the expense of cutting the canes and making the sugar, and give the labourers a third of every thing."

7558. *Chairman.*] Is there anything further you would wish to state to the Committee upon this subject?—To give some idea of my very bold suggestion to the planters generally, I have sketched out what my idea is, and I have put it down upon paper thus: suppose 90 acres of actual canes, and that those 90 acres are divided among 30 tenants, at three acres each, with one over as a fallow; that, at one hogshead per acre, would give 90 hogsheads, which at 20*l.* a hogshead would be 1,800*l.* The fourth of that to the tenants would be 450*l.*, which would be 15*l.* remuneration to each tenant with his wife and children, and such jobbers as he could get, whom he would not have to pay, but who would be glad to work upon the estate for him for any provision products which they could get upon the estate—that would leave to the proprietor 1,350*l.* besides

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the molasses and rum, out of which he would have to pay the expenses of the manufacture. But if instead of one hogshead per acre, you take it at 2 hogsheads per acre, that will give 180 hogsheads, which at 20 *l.* a hogshead would be 3,600 *l.*; the fourth to the tenant would be 900 *l.*, or 30 *l.* to each tenant, and then the landlord would have 2,700 *l.* besides the molasses and rum. As a mode to ascertain the value to be paid to the tenant, I would observe, that one gallon of cane-juice is calculated as equal to one pound of sugar, so that 1,500 gallons is equal to a hogshead of 1,500 lbs., or 13 cwt. I have put this down to show what my idea of the system is.

7559. Mr. *Godson.*] In making a hogshead of sugar does not the number of gallons of cane juice used often vary from 500 to 1,000 in a single hogshead?—It varies considerably according to the canes; I know that it may vary to that extent.

7560. Then how can one gallon produce one pound of sugar?—I do not put it as a fixed standard, but as something whereby you might fix the remuneration to the negro in the same way that, when I put down 2*d.* a pound for the cocoa, I took something that would give an average remuneration to the negro.

7561. *Chairman.*] Your present explanation gives to the negro an income of 15 *l.* sterling, upon which he and his family are to live?—Yes, and they would have the provision-grounds also.

7562. Do you suppose that in addition to doing justice to the three acres of sugar cane he would be able to cultivate provision-grounds?—I think he would with his family, and such occasional help as he would have.

7563. Are you acquainted with the colony of Berbice?—Not at all.

7564. You are not aware of the fact that the negroes in Berbice have declined to pick the coffee crop upon the trees on the system you have described, upon the terms of receiving one half of the produce?—I have not heard of that; but I know that my system has been misunderstood, and that it has been confounded with some other systems; there is a plan in some places of so many negroes in partnership, cultivating for a certain proportion of the produce; that is the system in Hayti, and it is found not to answer so well for that reason, that it is a system of partnership, and one lazy negro will hang back and let all the labour fall upon the others, for that reason I would have no partnerships, because no negro likes to trust his fellow. Now this I believe of Berbice, that if any system has been attempted, and failed there, it is something of that sort; something like the system, but not exactly the system I recommend.

JAMAICA.

Mr. *John Candler*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Candler.*

7565. Mr. *Hawes.*] YOU have visited the island of Jamaica?—I have.

7566. How long a time were you in Jamaica?—I was 12 months in the island.

7567. Did you mix with the labouring population and with the proprietors also in the island?—With all classes in the island.

7568. In what year were you there?—The whole of the year 1840.

7569. Will you give the Committee the dates of your arrival and departure?—I was in the island from December the 16th, 1839, to two or three days beyond that date in 1840.

7570. You visited all parts of the island?—I went into every parish.

7571. Did you hear any complaints on the part of the planters of the want of sufficient or of continuous labour upon their estates?—I heard such complaints frequently.

7572. Did they assign any grounds, or give you any facts, to substantiate their complaints?—In scarcely a single instance.

7573. Did you make personal inquiries yourself as to whether the complaints were well founded or not?—I did, wherever I went.

7574. What was the result of your inquiries?—I could scarcely fix a want of labourers upon any single estate that I visited.

7575. As to continuous labour, did you hear complaints of the want of continuous labour?—Very often.

7576. Did you find that they were well founded?—I think they were to some extent.

7577. What was the cause of that?—A natural love of independence on the part of the negro, not wishing to be tied down to give so many days' labour continuously

continuously and continually; wishing to be at liberty to do anything else that he might want for himself.

7578. Was there any variation in the complaints in some districts, as compared with others?—On some estates, as compared with others, a great difference.

7579. Did you arrive at any opinion as to the causes of the difference in the complaints with reference to particular estates?—Certainly.

7580. What were the causes which appeared to produce that difference?—I found that where the labourers were wisely and fairly treated, there was generally very little complaint on the part of the masters of the want of continuous labour.

7581. When you say fairly treated, do you mean by paying them fair wages?—Not coercing labour by means of rent; paying an average rate of wages, and paying those wages duly.

7582. In those cases in which the labourers were willing to work for fair wages where they were punctually paid, did you find that there was any want of continuous labour?—I do not recollect a single instance.

7583. Then you think generally, that complaints of the want of continuous labour arise from the absence of a punctual payment of wages, and from the practice of mixing rent and wages together in the remuneration of the labourer for his labour?—I think so.

7584. You mean paying them weekly?—Paying them weekly.

7585. Did you find generally, that the women turned out to work as well as the men?—I should suppose not to the same extent as they did under slavery; they do to a certain extent.

7586. They still continue to labour?—Certainly they did when I was there.

7587. With regard to the children from the age of 10 years and upwards, did you find them working?—I saw many bys and girls that I should not suppose to be much more than 10, from 12 years old and upwards, and some perhaps still younger.

7588. Working assiduously?—Quite so; like their fathers and mothers.

7589. You have stated that in some districts there were complaints made of want of labour, can you point out those districts?—Complaints were made of want of labour I should say, in every part of Jamaica occasionally; I sometimes heard that complaint, but when I came to test it by examination on particular estates, I could scarcely find one estate in which there was really a want of labourers.

7590. You have stated that you found some portions of the island more full of those complaints than others, and some estates on which the labourers did not work well continuously; can you point out the estates and assign the reasons why the labourer in those cases did not work?—I cannot remember any particular estate in which the proprietor or attorney told me that he could not get his work done for want of labourers; I do not recollect any particular estate; I often heard a vague and general complaint that labourers were wanted, but I do not recollect any individual estate, unless it was perhaps, the estate of Hermitage of Dr. Spalding.

7591. In what parish is that?—The parish of St. George.

7592. Will you state what you heard with reference to that estate?—The doctor told me that he had not a sufficient number of persons to do the work on his estate, and that consequently, he had hired Africans, who had been recently landed.

7593. On this estate they had obtained additional labour; a number of African immigrants had become labourers on the estate?—Yes, where I saw them assiduously at work.

7594. How many immigrants were working upon the estate?—Forty-five I saw in one cane field, and I believe there might be 60 or 70 altogether.

7595. Do you know how they had carried on the cultivation of the estate previously to the African labourers whom you saw arriving there?—I knew that some labourers had been brought from another estate of Dr. Spalding's to this very estate, and they were not satisfied to remain there, but went back to their old location, and the consequence was that this estate was deserted.

7596. Are you acquainted with the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East?—Quite well.

7597. Did you hear any complaints of want of labour there?—I heard no

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complaints in the district of Plantain Garden River of want of labourers; I heard some attorneys say, that if labourers were brought into the island they could very well employ them, and would build houses for their reception.

7598. Did you hear any special complaints in that parish of a want of labour or not?—Far from it; the attorneys generally spoke well of the produce of the estates, and of the work done upon them.

7599. Then may the Committee conclude from your general review of the state of Jamaica, that in your judgment the complaint of a general want of labourers is not well founded?—I should say it is not well founded.

7600. How many days in the week, and how many hours in the day did you find the negroes were generally employed in field labour?—I should think on the coffee plantations they work four days in the week on an average, at the rate of about six hours a day; not more than that on coffee plantations, except during crop.

7601. With reference to sugar estates, what did you find to be the case?—There is more labour I think, done upon sugar estates than upon coffee plantations; I should think they would labour five days in the week, and for a longer time in the day upon sugar estates, so far as my observation went.

7602. And in crop time how many days in the week and what number of hours?—They would labour often six days in the week, and give more hours in the day.

7603. More than six hours?—More than a regular day's work during some part of the crop season, when they were particularly wanted.

7604. Did you find that the labourer generally preferred job to day-work?—Where on calculation he supposed he could get more money by job-work, he preferred it.

7605. And he would work harder?—Yes.

7606. Did you find the planters more inclined to employ the labourers by job-work or by day-work?—When on calculation they found it to their advantage to have job-work, they preferred job-work.

7607. Was the employment by job-work increasing?—I think it was.

7608. Is it your opinion that the working by the job is more desirable, and should be encouraged?—Certainly.

7609. It has been suggested to the Committee that there should be a large immigration of labourers into our colonies, generally. Assuming the want of labour, which is stated to be the fact, what should you say to their being drawn from the coast of Africa to supply the alleged want of labour?—I should think it would be attended with a great many practical evils.

7610. What are the principal evils with which you think it would be attended?—I think there would be the stirring up of wars upon the coast of Africa among the rival chiefs, in order to procure individuals, who, *nolens volens*, would have to be transported, for I think there would be very little freedom among the people on that side.

7611. With reference to any evils that might be supposed as likely to arise in Jamaica from such an immigration, are you prepared to state what strikes you as the most prominent?—I think if there were a large immigration of African labourers in any one year it would be attended with ill consequences to the parties who might go, and that it would have an influence on the rate of wages that would be very unfavourable to the present labourers in Jamaica, and I think it would be injurious to the morals of the community in a way that I could show.

7612. Will you point out the evils to which you allude?—I am very well satisfied, from what I have seen in Jamaica, that there would be no adequate preparation made for the reception of any large number of immigrants at any one time. There was no such preparation making, though immigration was much talked of when I was there, and I have no reason to suppose that such preparation has been made since; and if any large number were to come into any one port there would not be habitations for them to go to, and the consequence would be, that they would have to herd together in trash-houses, or in some covered places for a time, and the sexes mingling together would be productive of very serious inconveniences and much moral evil.

7613. That you state from having visited the ports at which they are likely to arrive?—I have seen the effect already with reference to the Africans who have been landed by our prize vessels. I have visited several estates on which

those

those Africans have been located; they were living in anything but a proper way.

7614. You think a large importation of African labourers would tend to deteriorate the existing Creole population?—That would depend very much upon whether an equal number of the sexes were brought; if an equal number of women and men were brought over, the moral tendency would be less prejudicial; perhaps scarcely at all so if they had suitable places to be put in.

7615. Is it your opinion that no immigration should be permitted unless there were a due proportion of the sexes?—There ought to be a due proportion; I should say an equal proportion.

7616. Can you inform the Committee of the rates of wages paid to the different classes of field labourers when you were in Jamaica?—The average daily pay for an able-bodied labourer was 1*s.* 6*d.* for what was then called a day's work.

7617. What is a day's work?—A day's work was generally understood to be what was usually performed by an able-bodied labourer during one day under slavery.

7618. It was not measured by time?—It was measured by time under slavery, but it was not measured by time under the free system; but a certain quantity of work was considered what ought to be performed in the day by a labourer during slavery, and for an equal quantity of work 1*s.* 6*d.* was paid when I was there.

7619. Is the quantity of work for which that amount of wages is paid pretty uniform?—It is not uniform, because different parishes came to a different understanding as to what a day's labour should be; that was settled under the apprenticeship.

7620. Then the same money-wages per day does not represent the same amount of labour in different parts of the island?—Not exactly, but nearly so.

7621. Was that amount an advance upon the rate of wages offered to them upon the commencement of complete freedom?—It was an advance to the amount of 40 per cent.; 1*s.* a day was given to them at the termination of the apprenticeship, but they were to have their provision-grounds and houses free; now out of the 1*s.* 6*d.* a day they pay rent for their provision-grounds and houses; so that the advance is not quite to the extent of the difference between 1*s.* and 1*s.* 6*d.*; but I think it is an advance of about 40 per cent.

7622. Are you of opinion that the present rate of wages is fair and reasonable, or not?—It appears to me perfectly fair.

7623. Do the labourers save a deal of money, or not?—Speaking of them generally, they do save a great deal of money; many individuals do not, but many who work very hard can save a good deal.

7624. Can you give the Committee any information upon that point, as to the accumulation of property by negroes?—I can show the Committee how it may accumulate very rapidly: taking a man and his wife, the man would earn 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, and his wife, if she goes into the field, would earn 1 *s.*, that would be 2 *s.* 6*d.*; 2 *s.* 6 *d.* for five days in a week is 12 *s.* 6 *d.*; then if they pay 2 *s.* 6 *d.* out of it for rent of their provision-grounds and house, they have then 10 *s.* between them at the end of the five days, with one day clear to themselves to cultivate their own grounds; this 10 *s.* is ready money in hand. Then the question is, what is to be done with it; if they have provision-grounds they are able by one day's labour in a week to cultivate bread kind enough for their family for a whole year; in many parts of the island, not everywhere, it depends upon the goodness of the soil, and the relative situation of the place.

7625. Are the necessaries of life high in price in Jamaica?—Bread kind was very dear when I was there, arising from peculiar circumstances.

7626. How were other articles of consumption?—All articles of consumption may be said to be dear in Jamaica, except beef, which is generally of rather ordinary quality, and which is something cheaper than in England, but very little.

7627. Did you visit any of the free villages or townships formed by the labourers during your stay in the island?—Many of them.

7628. What struck you during such visits; were the houses built or building superior to those provided for them on the estates?—In almost every instance they were better, and in some instances considerably better; I saw some houses

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built by labourers which I was certain could not have cost less than from 100 *l.* to 150 *l.* sterling; those were but few; but generally speaking they were much better than the huts they had been used to live in.

7629. Do you think, or not, that the formation of these free settlements will ultimately much affect the amount of labour given to the adjoining estates?—I think it will not.

7630. Will you state your reasons for that opinion?—My reasons are, that they have been used to have their provision-grounds in time of slavery, to which they devoted a day in the week, or should have had a day to devote; and now, having their own grounds, they devote their time in the same manner, and if they grow sufficient for their family that is generally all they aim at; they do not care to go beyond that, and I should think the rest of their time will be given to the masters for wages.

7631. Do the labourers from such settlements get a higher rate of wages than those located on the estates?—In some instances they do; I know one estate in particular, on which the proprietor, owing to his injudicious treatment of his own labourers, was forced to hire labourers; I believe that from the free villages they hire them at a higher price than they have been used to pay their own labourers.

7632. Are they more skilful and industrious men generally?—They are generally the better class of people who buy land, and build houses for themselves.

7633. What wages do they get?—In one case, on one estate, those men were paid 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, and those employed on the estate were paid only 1 *s.* 3 *d.*, or something about that proportion.

7634. Then 1 *s.* 6 *d.* is the maximum rate of wages?—I do not recollect hearing that for a day's labour for a common labourer more was paid; it might have been the case in some instances. They often earn more than that in the day.

7635. Judging from the intercourse which you had with the planters in Jamaica, and their statements to you, or from facts within your own knowledge, do you suppose that the expense of cultivating estates, on the average of years, is greater now than it was during the period of slavery?—I can speak to what was matter of common talk with respect to pen or pasture lands. The general impression seemed to be, that pen or pasture land can now be kept in order cheaper than under slavery. With regard to coffee fields, I had the testimony of two large occupiers, whose names and plantations I can give, that they could cultivate their coffee grounds cheaper than under slavery. With regard to sugar cultivation, I can state from the information of an individual who ought to know, and whose name if disclosed to this Committee would lead them to say that he must know, who owned 2,000 slaves under slavery, who tells me that he sees no reason why, in the district in which he lives, the sugar estates should not be cultivated now as cheap as ever they were; the sugar estates generally in that district.

7636. He being a large owner of property?—One of the largest attorneys; having as much perhaps under his care as any attorney in Jamaica.

7637. Have you any objection to mention his name?—I have but one objection, which I will state to the Committee: I received a letter from him, in reply to some questions which he allowed me to put to him, and he says in the letter, "But I do not wish to have my name disclosed." I met him afterwards at Kingston, and he then said, "I am so well satisfied with the manner in which you have pursued your investigation, that I will withdraw the restriction I laid upon you with regard to the use of my name;" and therefore I should have no objection to mention the name here, but I do not think it is desirable that it should be published.

7638. You speak from personal intercourse with this gentleman, and you know him to be an attorney of large experience and of high character?—Yes.

7639. And you pledge your character to these facts?—Certainly, I do.

7640. Did you obtain any information as to the general expenses of the management of estates in regard to the salaries and commissions of the agents of absentee proprietors, whether or not they form a large item in the expense of plantation management?—I frequently asked attorneys in Jamaica to be kind enough to allow me to inspect the balance sheets, but I have never had that liberty in any one case.

7641. Can you give the Committee any information as to the economical management of estates of resident proprietors as compared with those of absentee proprietors?—I have no means of knowing that; I believe there are very few resident proprietors of large estates in Jamaica at all; they seem to me almost everywhere to be managed by attorneys for absentee proprietors.

7642. Did you obtain any information as to the practicability of improvements in the mode of cultivation, with a view to lessen the expense and increase the production of the estates?—The plough has become more generally introduced on lands which will admit of the plough being used, and I saw it frequently at work; there is a disposition on the part of the planters to encourage cheap production by means of the plough and other instruments, more than there used to be.

7643. Is there an increasing degree of enterprise or not just now with regard to the improvement of estates?—I thought there was; I could not compare it with past years, having been only there during one season; but from all I heard I should think there is an increase of enterprise.

7644. Was it your general impression, on viewing the whole island, that it was improving in cultivation, and that capital was being laid out in the improvement of estates, and that upon the whole it bore the marks of a colony rather improving than retrograding?—I can hardly say that it was improving while I was there, in consequence of circumstances that tended to retard the improvement, which I can mention. By going back for two years I can show why there could not be any great apparent prosperity.

7645. Will you state what those circumstances are?—At the close of the apprenticeship there was a long squabble between the masters and the labourers with regard to the rate of wages and the rent that should be paid; that was in 1838; and for six months after the commencement of freedom there was very little labour comparatively done upon the estates in Jamaica. Labour must be said to have been lost during the greater part of those six months throughout Jamaica, so that the coffee trees were not pruned, the young canes were not put in, and the fields very generally neglected during that six months, till about the summer of 1839. Then there was a better understanding between the masters and the labourers; the labourers came into the field, and the ground began to be more generally cultivated; but the loss of labour during those six months had an extensive operation on the crop of 1840, and also on that of 1841, from so little cane plant having been put into the ground, so that they could not be said to be in an improving state when I was there in 1840; we were seeing the marks of the previous neglect to a great extent.

7646. Which neglect arose from causes more or less under the control of the planters themselves?—I should say entirely so.

7647. Did you hear any complaints of the absence of rain, of dry weather, and injury to the crops from that cause?—During the year 1840 there was very little rain; it was a very dry year, and the consequence was, that the crops were looking in some parts of the island in a very unhealthy state, and it was easy to see that very little sugar could be made in the year 1840, arising from the long-continued drought; so much so, as, in the parish of Vere, which is a very large sugar-growing parish, almost to destroy the hopes of the planters.

7648. Your own personal knowledge comes down to the fall of 1840?—It does.

7649. Have you heard from the island since then?—I have.

7650. From persons on whom you can rely?—I have no individual statement to refer to. I know no more than all do who are conversant with West India matters. I have correspondence with individuals, but not with reference particularly to these points.

7651. Generally, do they communicate to you an improved state of things in the island?—Unquestionably.

7652. With reference to the produce of the island generally?—Yes, arising from the change of seasons very much.

7653. And the improved state of relations of master and labourer?—Yes.

7654. Did you hear, whilst you were in Jamaica, of the abandonment of any sugar estates?—Several.

7655. Can you at all state where they were?—They were part in Clarendon; I think exclusively there.

7656. Were there any causes assigned for the abandonment of those estates?

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—I was told that they had not been profitable under slavery, and that they had been abandoned in consequence of their having yielded no profit to the proprietors as sugar plantations. They were a great distance from the sea, and land carriage was very expensive.

7657. Speaking generally, you did not hear of the abandonment of estates?—Only in that part of Jamaica.

7658. Speaking of the general conduct of the labourers, you can inform the Committee whether it was good, whether they obeyed the laws, and generally manifested a desire to work for their masters, supposing always they were fairly remunerated?—I believe there is not a better peasantry to be found in the world than in Jamaica, or more willing to work for their masters, or more loyal.

7659. Are their religious and moral and social habits improving?—Evidently, in almost every part of the island; I could make exceptions.

7660. Are there any signs of an increase of trade generally through the island?—Certainly.

7661. Trade of what description?—The sale of clothing and food, such as the negroes have been used to consume under slavery, only of a better quality; the imports into the island were increased about 50 per cent.

7662. Is it your opinion that the internal prosperity of the island is improving?—I do think so.

7663. You have been understood to say that the negroes cultivate their own grounds diligently and successfully?—They do.

7664. And they supply the markets of the island with fowls, and other things of that sort?—Not to the extent desired; a great many fowls, of course, are sent to the different markets; but it is not so much that as ground provisions, which they call bread kind, that they cultivate; yams and plantains.

7665. Do they subscribe freely to schools and to churches?—Very largely.

7666. Have they established benefit societies and savings banks?—Some have been established for them in some places, but I believe very little good has resulted from them, owing to the manner in which the managers have been appointed.

7667. The Committee have been told by other witnesses that the negroes are indisposed to avail themselves of medical aid when sick, and that considerable mortality has taken place among the children in consequence; are you aware of that fact?—I have heard of it, and I have no doubt it is so.

7668. How do you account for that?—In the first place, medical charges are very high in Jamaica; the negroes imagine that they cannot afford to employ medical men, and many were not very well disposed towards the medical men then in the island, in consequence of their having had to attend them when they were slaves in the hospitals attached to the estates, where they very often experienced neglect, and therefore they would rather struggle on and suffer almost anything, than pay largely for services on which they did not after all set any great value.

7669. Are you at all acquainted with the taxation of the island?—I went through the balance sheet of the island with regard to the taxation, and the income, and expenditure.

7670. Did it appear to you somewhat large for a colony of that extent?—It did.

7671. Extravagantly large?—It appeared to me needlessly large.

7672. Are the negroes acquiring political power in Jamaica?—They are acquiring power; I do not learn that they have used it much yet, but they are getting it.

7673. Did you hear any complaints of the amount of parochial taxes?—Yes, often.

7674. By whom?—By the planters; by persons interested in the payment of them.

7675. The planters are the parties who levy the taxes, are they not?—A select body; a few out of many.

7676. Is that few somewhat interested in the expenditure of the taxes?—They are only so far interested in it that they have the apportionment of the moneys that come into their hands, and it gives rise to a great deal of jobbing in many instances, as I understand, and as I believe.

7677. Keeping

7677. Keeping in mind all that has resulted from the great struggle for freedom in Jamaica, and the effects of the drought to which you have alluded, is it or is it not your opinion that the disputes which have been incidental to that struggle, and the evil which has arisen from that bad season, are now approaching a termination, and that the colony shows a tendency to advance and to improve?—I should say so, certainly.

7678. Do you think that it is necessary now to encourage any very large immigration of labourers or not?—I should think it is not necessary to encourage any immigration at all, whether large or small.

7679. *Chairman.*] Have you any property in Jamaica?—I have.

7680. Where is it situated?—In the parish of St. George.

7681. What does it consist of?—Wood-land.

7682. Have you any sugar or coffee property?—Coffee has grown on this land, and may grow again; it is now ruinate.

7683. Owing to what circumstance is the property now ruinate?—It was not found profitable by the former occupier, and I purchased it, conjointly with an attorney, thinking that we might do something with it.

7684. Have you found that hope disappointed?—I have not received any account yet; I do not expect much from it.

7685. When did you make the purchase?—In 1840.

7686. During your stay in the island?—Yes.

7687. You thought it might turn out a profitable speculation?—No, I did not buy it with that view; I bought it with the view of making a free settlement there.

7688. Then you bought it from philanthropic views, for the sake of the negro population?—I did.

7689. What was your inducement to visit the island of Jamaica at the close of the year 1839?—To see how freedom was working for the people, that we might thoroughly understand the question in England; that my friends, who feel a great interest, and have always done, in the question of emancipation, might thoroughly understand the matter.

7690. Had you previously, in England, entertained strong opinions upon the question of the emancipation of the slaves?—Certainly.

7691. Entertaining, it may be presumed, a great desire for the completion of that great act?—Yes; and I had worked hard in the struggle.

7692. You stated that you went into every parish in the island?—I did.

7693. The parishes in Jamaica are very extensive, and, according to our idea in England, they bear more resemblance to counties than to parishes?—Certainly.

7694. Did you visit every estate in the island of Jamaica?—Not one-tenth part of them.

7695. You visited, comparatively speaking, few estates?—I should say many as a traveller, for a person under my circumstances.

7696. From what parties, in visiting those estates, did you derive your information?—From attornies and overseers, and Members of the House of Assembly, and from all parties interested in the cultivation of the land.

7697. Did you make any lengthened stay in any instance upon any sugar estate, with a view to inform yourself by your own observation of the system in operation?—No; but I was for six weeks in the mountains of Clarendon, in the neighbourhood of a great many sugar estates, where I pursued my inquiries; I visited two estates, and had information from the attornies who resided on them.

7698. But in some instances you found the attornies unwilling to give you much information?—So far as to expose their balance sheet, which in no instance could I get; I was desirous of ascertaining what were the profits derived from sugar cultivation.

7699. You said you often heard complaints of a want of labour, but that upon investigating those complaints, you uniformly found that no proof was afforded you?—Yes.

7700. Then on the other hand you subsequently stated that, although in your opinion there was no want of labourers, you had found that the complaints of want of continuous labour were well founded?—In some instances they were undoubtedly.

7701. Were you correctly understood to state, that in your opinion the cause

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of that want of continuous labour was the natural love of independence which is entertained by the emancipated negro?—Certainly.

7702. Shortly afterwards you stated that no complaint whatever of want of labour was made where the negroes were fairly and wisely treated?—I heard no such complaints.

7703. And you proceeded to explain that your idea of fair and wise treatment was, that their wages should be duly paid, and that the labourers should not be pressed for their rents?—That the labourer should not be coerced by means of rent.

7704. Then it appears that you have stated two distinct causes of the want of continuous labour, the one being the natural love of independence on the part of the emancipated negro, the other being the occasional absence of fair and wise treatment on the part of the master; which of those causes is the one to which you would ascribe the want of continuous labour?—In the cases I examined I found that the masters had not treated the labourers wisely and fairly, and I heard vague statements on the part of the planters as to procuring a quantity of negroes occasionally when they might be particularly wanted for a day or two, but I do not remember having had it so brought home that I can mention the name of the planter or where it occurred.

7705. Are the Committee to understand you to say that the love of independence on the part of the negroes is of partial application, and had no effect in cases where the labourer was wisely and justly treated?—I think it has the same effects everywhere.

7706. Then to which cause do you attribute the want of continuous labour, to the love of independence on the part of the negro, or to the want of just and wise treatment on the part of the master?—I attribute it to both, but more particularly to unwise and unkind treatment; because if the master does not use him kindly the negro is determined not to give him that kind of labour which he requires; he says, nothing is done for me, and I will do nothing for the master.

7707. What is your meaning in saying that wages are not duly paid?—There is a great want of capital in Jamaica, and the attornies of many estates which produce largely are not furnished with the means of paying the wages weekly; they are frequently not paid more than once a month; on many plantations not so often as that.

7708. Did that proceed always from the want of capital to pay them with?—I believe so; I cannot conceive any other reason.

7709. Did you hear any instances during your stay in Jamaica where the mode of payment was matter of arrangement, in some cases weekly, in others fortnightly, and in others monthly?—Yes, and I have heard of many violations of such agreements after they have been made.

7710. You think the absence of punctual payment was one main cause of the want of continuous labour?—I think it was one cause.

7711. Are the Committee to understand from what you stated with regard to rent that you disapprove of the negro being called upon to pay rent for the premises which he occupies?—So far from it, that if I were a proprietor I would not allow any one to occupy a house of mine that did not pay his rent regularly.

7712. Then what is your objection to the exaction of rent?—Inasmuch as it is made a means of coercing labour: the planter says, you shall not remain in my house unless you give me so many days' labour in the week, and if you go to work anywhere else, instead of paying *2s.* 6*d.* a week, you shall pay *5s.*; that is the sort of lawless manner in which it was conducted, and which the labourers resisted.

7713. When you talk of that being a "lawless" proceeding, do you mean to express the opinion, that a proprietor who has a house and land to let, is not at liberty to make, as matter of bargain, such terms as he likes with the tenant?—I think I could show that the law was exceeded in numerous instances, in those squabbles between master and man.

7714. Do you consider it to be a lawless act for a proprietor, letting his land, to make his own terms with the tenant?—Certainly it is not.

7715. Then the word "lawless" does not strictly apply to the circumstances with which you connected it?—I think it does.

7716. In what way do you think the word "lawless" applies to those circumstances?—

cumstances?—A number of labourers receive their cottages and grounds, for which they are to pay a certain rent, without any other understanding; they take them subject to the usual law of the land; and yet very soon the master will turn round, and in defiance of anything like law, impose new conditions; such as, "I will have your continuous labour or I will turn you out."

7717. Is it not competent to the labourer, upon new conditions being imposed, to leave the premises he occupies?—Not in a summary manner, contrary to the general tenure of land and houses.

7718. The only aspect which such a transaction can assume on either part, would be the imposition of terms which would be objected to, and upon so being objected to, notice of quitting the premises would be given either by the one party or by the other?—I speak of cases in which no legal notice has been given, and the parties have been threatened with summary expulsion, contrary to the general custom of the country.

7719. Would that summary expulsion be a legal expulsion?—I apprehend not.

7720. Then would not he have his legal remedy?—That would be of little avail on the part of the labourer against the planter.

7721. What more can any man have in any country than a legal remedy for a wrong which he suffers?—The object of the question was, as to the cause of the want of continuous labour, and I said that the lawless proceedings of the masters had in so many instances irritated the labourers, that there was an indisposition on the part of the labourers on many estates to meet the views of the masters, and to give them continuous labour.

7722. Have you known any cases of that description of summary attempts at ejectments, which you describe as being "lawless"?—I heard of them many times in Jamaica.

7723. Do you think it an unnatural desire for any proprietor to entertain, that when he allows the labourer to live upon his premises he should receive the benefit of the labourer's work?—I think it would be inexpedient to make any bargain of that sort; but where they have accepted houses and lands, according to the general customs of the country, this new condition has been imposed upon them; and they have been threatened with summary expulsion, contrary to law.

7724. Was such a proceeding what you meant when you used the word "coercion"?—It was.

7725. Such a proceeding would be open to a legal remedy, easily accessible?—Not easily accessible; a petty sessions would be held at the distance of six or eight miles from where the party lived; there would be a day spent in going to those petty sessions; frequently there would be only one magistrate present when two would be required to decide the question; then a second day would be lost, and in consequence of that, in many instances I should say that justice was not easily accessible.

7726. Is there anything more in those difficulties than that which applies with equal force to every petty sessions in England?—Certainly; it applies to a much greater degree than ever was known in England.

7727. Are you prepared to state that this coercion of labour, by raising the rent of the premises, was universally adopted in Jamaica?—Not universally.

7728. Was it generally adopted?—Perhaps generally would be too strong a term; it was adopted on a great number of estates.

7729. A succession of witnesses before this Committee have distinctly stated that in every case they permitted the labourers living upon their estates to employ their labour wherever they thought fit; are you prepared to contradict that?—Decidedly.

7730. You stated, that in one instance the complaint of want of labourers was not well founded?—Yes; I instanced the Hermitage plantation, belonging to Dr. Spalding, in which he said that he had a sufficient number of labourers to cultivate that particular estate, but that they had deserted him.

7731. Was the complaint you generally heard, a want of labourers or a want of labour?—A want of what is called continuous labour was almost the only complaint I heard of; want of labourers, very rarely indeed.

7732. Would it make any material difference, in point of fact, whether the planter complained of want of labourers or want of labour, if the labourers who

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were in his neighbourhood would not work for him?—No, it would not; but if they were wisely treated they would work for him.

7733. You state that on coffee estates the labourers work four days in the week, and six hours in the day?—That was my general impression.

7734. Should you call that a fair amount of labour?—If they think it fair and can subsist with it they are at liberty to do so, and continuous labour is not so much wanted on a coffee plantation as on the sugar cane, except at particular seasons.

7735. I presume, in those seasons the planter was able to obtain a greater quantity of work in a week than you have just described?—In some instances I should say he was.

7736. In other instances, if he desired it he could not get it?—I think it would be so in some instances.

7737. Is it not likely to be seriously injurious to the employer who depends upon labour for his profits, if the state of things is such that he cannot get his labourers to work more than 24 hours in a week?—I think that in some districts six hours would give a sufficient quantity of labour for the master; one master has told me, that spreading it over the whole year this would be as much labour as he would require.

7738. You have stated, that on the sugar estates you think they work five days a week; are you prepared to state that they generally work five days a week?—I heard no complaint to the contrary.

7739. You cannot say that they do?—I cannot say that they do. I have heard no complaint to the contrary.

7740. You state that they will, on sugar estates, work a longer time in the day, as well as work for five days; how much longer?—In cases in which they are fairly treated by their masters they will work as long as their masters wish them to do on many estates.

7741. Do they not generally work by task?—There is a great deal of work that cannot be performed by task; they work by task if they think they can earn more by it, and I think they generally work by task in this way: a certain quantity is considered a day's labour.

7742. How many hours did that occupy an able-bodied man?—That depends upon the strength the man chooses to put out. I should say an able-bodied man will perform in five hours as much work as was considered a day's work under slavery.

7743. According to the general estimate of work to be performed, is five hours a fair day's work?—He might do more, and he often does more; when we say fair, it is fair if the man chooses to work no longer.

7744. The cases to which you adverted, where task-work was not performed, were cases in the crop season?—Yes, and there are other things to be done on the farm which cannot be measured exactly.

7745. Is it not usual in those cases of working by the day to pay an increased amount of wages to compensate for that increased amount of labour?—Certainly.

7746. You state that any great extent of immigration would cause many evils; did you find any evils arise from immigration on Dr. Spalding's estate at Hermitage, where he had 60 or 70 immigrants working on the estate?—Yes; I saw what I considered a great evil on Dr. Spalding's estate; there was a building divided into three compartments, where about 50 of his new labourers were living; that was both their day and night accommodation; and I had to complain of the same want of accommodation of Africans on other parts of the island, and the answer generally given to me was, we are preparing buildings for their reception, and some new cottages that were being built were pointed out to me.

7747. You are not prepared to contradict that assertion?—I am not.

7748. Therefore whatever evil may have resulted from the circumstance to which you have adverted, must have been of a passing and temporary nature?—I do not think the preparations made or making were at all equal to the wants of the new Africans coming on the estate.

7749. Did not the Africans receive the same allowances as the creole labourers?—No, they did not; in the first instance, they had no provision-grounds in those cases where I examined them.

7550. Are

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7750. Are you prepared to state that in no instance those Africans had provision-grounds?—I do not remember an instance where they had.

7751. Did they desire to have provision-grounds?—I do not know that they did; they were taken by their masters under the immigration agents.

7752. The question is, whether or not, in every instance where the Africans desired it, they had provision-grounds on the same footing as the other negroes; are you prepared to say that they had not?—It was not so when I was there.

7753. You say that a great extent of immigration may have a bad effect on wages; do you mean that it would lower wages?—Yes.

7754. It has been stated by Mr. Knibb, a witness who has been examined by the Committee, that in his opinion no extent of immigration would, in the first instance, lower wages; you do not concur in that opinion?—I do not.

7755. You state that there is no adequate preparation for any large number of immigrants at once; it would, I presume, be very easy to afford greater accommodation?—Not very easy: unless there was a certainty that at a certain time a certain number of labourers would be brought into the island, I believe very few planters would take the trouble of making such preparations. If it could be made a certainty, that a given number would be introduced, I can well suppose that on some estates preparation would be made; but many planters would be uncertain whether any labourers would fall to their lot.

7756. Your answer amounts to this, that it is not certain that houses would be built, unless it were known that persons would come?—Certainly.

7757. But in the event of any systematic effort there would be no difficulty on that head?—I think they would not make adequate preparation, and I judge so from what I saw when I was in the West Indies.

7758. Are you prepared to say that since the close of the year 1840, during which time attention has been largely directed to the subject of emigration, adequate arrangements have not been made?—I am.

7759. How do you know that?—From the evidence that I have read in regard to it; a great mortality has ensued in consequence of the want of suitable preparation, even at Kingston, as well as in different parts of the island.

7760. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Had the Emigration Act passed before you left the island?—It had.

7761. Are you aware that there is a clause in that Act, that every person applying to the agent to introduce immigrants, shall state what location he means to provide for them; what provision-grounds he means to give them, and what maintenance he means to supply them with?—Yes, I am quite aware of those provisions of the Act.

7762. Do you mean to say then in your answer that you think it impossible to comply with those provisions of the Act?—Not impossible; but I think it not likely that those provisions of the Act should be complied with.

7763. Does your distrust in the likelihood of the compliance with those provisions arise from want of confidence in the agents alone, or from what other cause?—I think the planters would be satisfied with providing them with very insufficient accommodation.

7764. Are you aware that it does not, under the Act, depend upon the planter, but upon the agent?—Yes; but we may suppose the case of a ship-load coming over at once, for which parties have not made any offer at all, and in such a case, what could be done with them? There is nothing in the Act to prevent a number being brought over without any previous bargain having been made for them; the supply has not been regulated in that way, as I understand it.

7765. How do you suppose that those immigrants would be introduced upon the planters?—Whilst I was in the island, those who had been captured were brought in just any how, helter skelter, as they might be taken by the cruisers.

7766. But speaking of a regular system of immigration to supply the wants of the planters, where a planter applies to an agent or sub-agent to introduce a certain number of immigrants, in which case he is compelled to submit the circumstances to the agent-general at the time of his application, do you conceive that in that case there would be any difficulty in the agent-general enforcing the provisions of the Act, and denying to the planter the power of introducing immigrants if he did not comply with them?—I do not think there would be any difficulty on his part; I think he might insist on having the provisions of the Act attended to.

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7767. *Chairman.*] It would be his duty to do so?—Undoubtedly.

7768. And in case of his doing his duty, the apprehension you have expressed would fall to the ground?—With regard to the bringing over any labourers I should say so; but I think they may be introduced without those provisions being guaranteed in the first instance; I speak under correction.

7769. You stated an opinion that the wages of the labourers are perfectly fair; do you mean fair as regards the planter or as regards the labourer?—Fair as regards both.

7770. When you express that opinion do you include the whole remuneration for labour, or do you advert only to the money wages paid?—I know of no other remuneration than the wages paid to the labourer.

7771. Did you never hear of provision-ground occupied by the labourer?—For that he pays rent.

7772. Did he pay rent uniformly?—In some instances he did not, and a lower rate of wages was paid in consequence of his not paying rent, and the two questions were mixed up together, which the Governor very strongly condemned.

7773. Do you consider that rent is paid for the house that he occupies, or for the provision-ground that he occupies?—For both.

7774. Is it paid in one lump for both; or is one sum specifically allotted for the house, and another for the provision-ground?—Generally they are paid together under one sum, house and provision-ground.

7775. Does that rent vary according to the quantity of provision-ground occupied?—In some instances it does, and I believe generally there is an understanding between the master and the man that only a certain quantity of ground is to be taken; they do range ad libitum, because the ground is of no value to the master, and the labourer is not very closely looked after.

7776. Though the ground is not valuable to the master, is it not valuable to the labourer?—Yes.

7777. Does he not occupy a quantity of that ground limited only by his desires and wishes?—No, it is limited; and in numerous instances the masters find fault where a wider range is taken.

7778. Nevertheless this Committee understand that the usual system, so far as it is a system, is, that 1*s.* a week rent is paid for the provision-ground, and whether the quantity is half an acre or two acres, the rent does not vary?—It is so in a great many instances.

7779. Therefore is not that quantity of provision-ground to be fairly considered as part of the remuneration of labour?—Then the questions of wages and rent are mixed.

7780. Do not you consider that where an employer allows a labourer to occupy a large quantity of profitable provision-ground, that provision-ground so given to him must fairly be considered as part of the remuneration for his labour?—Certainly not, because it is the interest of the planter to let his provision-ground to his labourer, or to any person who will occupy it, and he gets a larger rent in that way than he could get in any other.

7781. But is it not the fact that in many cases no rent whatever is paid for the land?—The two questions of rent and wages have been undoubtedly mixed up, and continued to be mixed up to this day; but some are seeing that it is not a wise plan, and are getting out of it.

7782. Is it not the fact that many labourers receive money wages to the amount of 1*s.* 6*d.* per day, or per task, or thereabouts, and that they also receive from their employers the benefit of the gratuitous occupation of very profitable provision-ground?—No, certainly not.

7783. When you say, certainly not, you allude to the rent that is paid?—Yes.

7784. But that rent does not vary according to the quantity of ground occupied?—No; simply upon this ground, that they are allowed to range over a certain tract of land, and take as much as they can cultivate, the master considering that so much only can be cultivated by a given family.

7785. You have stated that the labourer can raise bread kind enough by one day's labour in the week, upon his ground, to maintain him during the year?—I believe, in many instances, he can; and in some he cannot.

7786. By applying additional labour to them, is it not the fact that those grounds yield a considerable profit to the labourer?—In many instances they do; where it is virgin land, and where it is well attended to.

7787. Is not the result of that system that, in some shape or other, whether you consider it as remuneration or not, the receipts of the labourers are very large?—They undoubtedly are, or might be, if they chose to put out their strength fairly.

7788. Are they not so large as to enable the labourer to accumulate property, to make him very much independent of the proceeds of his labour to his employer, and to prevent his giving continuous labour to that employer?—No, I think not.

7789. To what do you attribute the fact that he does not give continuous work?—The natural love of independence.

7790. Is he not enabled to gratify that natural love of independence by the large receipts which he makes?—He may go on accumulating money out of wages, and from labour on his provision-ground, after paying his rent; I see no other way in which he can do it.

7791. Is he not enabled to gratify his love of independence solely in consequence of his large receipts?—Certainly; but if he be content with a lower scale of animal existence, he may gratify his love of independence in the same way; a man who is satisfied to labour only two days a week, and to live upon that work, may be as independent as one who accumulates a great deal.

7792. Is it not the fact that the rate of animal existence which he does enjoy is a very high and comfortable one?—It is a comfortable one, but not a very high one.

7793. You stated that some gentleman, whose name you did not mention, told you that there was no reason why a sugar estate might not be cultivated now as cheap as ever?—I give his own words; he said that he saw no reason why a sugar estate should not be cultivated as cheap now as ever.

7794. What is your construction of those words?—That he was cultivating his estate at as little expense as under slavery.

7795. Did he state that in terms?—No; I gave the terms of his letter.

7796. Would you not infer from those words that at present those sugar estates are by no means cultivated as cheap as ever, but that he anticipated that some change of system might enable planters so to cultivate them?—I think so in part.

7797. You stated that you did hear of the abandonment of several estates?—Yes, in Clarendon.

7798. Did you hear of any other instances?—I do not remember any others.

7799. Is it your opinion that they were unprofitable?—They were described to me as being unprofitable for a number of years past.

7800. For how many years?—It would go back, I should say, 12 or 14 years.

7801. Have they become more unprofitable of late than they formerly were?—I do not know.

7802–3. Do you know when they were abandoned?—They have been going out of cultivation for years; I know that they are not used as sugar properties at all.

7804. Are you aware of the fact that the exports of sugar from Jamaica have fallen off within the last 10 years to the extent of two-thirds, and since the commencement of freedom one-half?—I am aware of the falling off.

7805. Are you aware of it having fallen off to that extent?—I could by reference give the amount of the exports each year.

7806. Do not you think that that large deficiency may in some degree account for the abandonment of estates?—No, I think not.

7807. Are you aware that witnesses of high respectability have come before this Committee and stated that for the last year or two large estates have been cultivated at an actual loss?—I can suppose that.

7808. Cannot you reconcile it with that statement, that where parties are not possessed of great capital the abandonment of their properties must necessarily follow?—Yes, I can reconcile it, certainly.

7809. You state that no peasantry are more willing to work for their masters; is not that willingness to work for their masters regulated by their own self-interest, and that natural love of independence which you have described?—Yes.

7810. And notwithstanding the admitted want of continuous labour, and this great diminution in the productions of Jamaica, it is still your opinion that

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no immigration into that colony is needed in order to compensate for the reduced supply of labour?—Certainly; because the reduced exportation may be attributed to other causes.

7811. To what causes do you attribute the reduced exportation?—Neglect in the cultivation on the coming in of freedom, and its operation in the two succeeding years, and the long drought of 1840.

7812. If you think immigration so undesirable, in what way would you propose to remedy the want of continuous labour, which you yourself admit to exist?—I do not think it prevails to any great extent, and I think it need not exist at all if there was a determination on the part of the masters who complain of it to treat their labourers as they ought to be treated, and as sound principles of political economy would lead them to treat them; I think there is a great absence of sound principles of political economy in the treatment by the planters of their labourers.

7813. As they give them high wages and provision-grounds, what more would you require?—I do not consider that they give them the provision-grounds; they receive a high rent for them, which would satisfy every one; a much higher rent than proprietors in this country receive.

7814. The rent received by proprietors in this country would be regulated by many other circumstances, would it not?—If the lands were worth more than they now receive they would get more; but there is land in such abundance in Jamaica, that if one will not let it another will.

7815. In many cases the labourers take it without paying for it?—No.

7816. Land is taken by the labourer, is it not?—They may take more than was understood to be granted.

7817. What do you consider to be the average quantity of provision-ground occupied by the Jamaica labourers?—I should think, from half an acre to an acre of ground for one family.

7818. Is it not in many cases two acres?—I dare say it may be.

7819. Do you consider that in Jamaica 1*s.* a week would be anything like an adequate rent for two acres of provision-ground?—A very large rent.

7820. What do you consider to be the annual profit made from the provision-ground?—The profits are derived, not from the provision-ground, but from the labour of the individual and his family, who devote their sinews to the soil; it is the fruit of their toil.

7821. You say it is not made from the ground?—It is from the ground, we know.

7822. Mr. *Hawes.*] In combination with labour and skill?—Yes, that expresses what I mean.

7823. *Chairman.*] Of course an ample produce is not obtained without great labour and skill, but my question is, what is the annual value of that production?—I will state fairly what I really think, from all I could understand, may be allowed for an acre of ground; I should suppose about 20 *l.* sterling per annum, when I was there, would have been the result; that is, the provisions cultivated on an acre would have fetched in the market of Jamaica about 20 *l.*, and in some seasons would fetch a great deal more; and sometimes, owing to the change of seasons, would fetch a great deal less.

7824. What would be the average amount?—I should think about 20 *l.* sterling a year.

7825. Is it not in many cases higher than that?—It is in some cases.

7826. If a labourer pays 1 *s.* a week for two acres, and one will yield him 20 *l.* a year and upwards, do you consider that a high rent for that ground?—Yes, because rent is regulated by no other law than the quantity of land in the market.

7827. Mr. *Smith.*] When you say that an acre of provision-ground will be worth 20 *l.* sterling per annum, do you mean with the constant labour of the tenant employed upon it?—His labour for one day in the week.

7828. With such labour employed upon it as he can afford to give at his leisure, he being a labourer upon the estate?—Yes.

7829. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You stated that there was no complaint of want of labour in St. Thomas-in-the-East; do you state that upon authority on which you can rely?—Certainly; I can give the names of several plantations which I visited, in which there was no complaint of the quantity of labour that could be procured.

7830. You also stated, that in some parishes they could very well employ emigrants if they could be procured?—I heard from two attornies, that they could give additional employment; but to keep in cultivation the land that they had in cultivation, they did not complain of want of labourers.

7831. Will you reconcile the two answers that there was no complaint of want of labour, and yet that they could employ others?—The one was in order to keep up the cultivation, and the other in order to extend it.

7832. You spoke of a large extent of immigration in one year being extremely detrimental; how many do you refer to when you say a large extent?—I think if 4,000 or 5,000 labourers were introduced in any one year it might be detrimental, as tending to beat down wages; that would soon be the working of it going on at that rate; I do not mean in one year, but if there were to be any larger number imported it would have that effect.

7833. You stated that a negro could save 10*s.* a week by working only four days, and yet that a negro could not afford to pay a medical man when he was ill?—I said that such was his impression; I did not say that he could not do it.

7834. How do you account for that impression, if he had 10*s.* a week laid by, which he need not pay for his subsistence, that if he should be ill he supposes he cannot afford to pay a medical man?—The charges of medical men are necessarily high in Jamaica, in consequence of their having to keep many horses, and having a great way to ride; and if as much as a sovereign or two would be taken of a labourer at any one time for attendance on his family, he thinks it a great deal of money, and he shrinks from it, and would rather not have to pay it.

7835. Is there so great a difference between that country and this that a poor man there cannot get medical attendance at a lower rate than a rich man?—Yes, he can; but even the lower rate is necessarily large.

7836. How are the charges made?—I know how they are made in the town of Kingston, but I do not know in the country; judging of the one by the other, I should say the charges are three times as high as in England.

7837. You stated that the mortality was very great, and that one of the reasons was, that the negroes could not get medical attendance?—Not that they could not get it, nor did I say that the mortality had been very great; but when an epidemic occurs, mortality frequently follows.

7838. If the poor man can save 10*s.* a week, and medical attendance is within his reach, will he not pay for it?—No, he will not; such is the fact.

7839. I understood you to say that the parochial taxes were very heavy, and that they were levied and disposed of by the vestries, which had given rise to a good deal of jobbing; will you explain that?—There are certain sums appropriated by the vestries for the support of the Established Church in many instances, and I should say that the clergyman or curate of the parish would have influence in procuring part of that grant; but when I gave that answer I was thinking of monies that had been voted by the House of Assembly to those select vestries out of public taxes; a considerable sum every year would be voted for roads and highways, to be distributed at the discretion of the select vestries, and those sums of money so granted for roads in the parishes are jobbed extremely; I met with repeated instances in which the roads were dreadfully neglected, though money was paid by the House of Assembly for keeping them in order.

7840. Mr. *Vernon Smith.*] Supposing proper locations were appropriated for immigrants, which is the principal objection that you have made to immigration, what other objections would you raise to it?—I think the natural increase of population is quite sufficient to meet all the wants of the colony; there is already a sufficient number of labourers in the colony for the capital already existing to give it a proper direction; and unless capital be increased at the same time that labour is increased, there will be great misery produced to the labourers.

7841. The increase of population will be an affair of some time?—It is going on very fast.

7842. In the meantime do you consider that the present population is quite sufficient for the wants of Jamaica?—To keep up the present cultivation, I do.

7843. You have drawn a distinction between the want of labourers and the want of labour; I understand you to say that there is no want of labourers, provided the masters would treat them properly; the impropriety of their treatment you conceive to arise from a violation of agreements with them, which tends to make the labourers refuse to work?—Very often.

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7844. Are there no violations of agreement on the part of the labourers with the masters?—I do not recollect any such cases coming under my observation.

7845. You consider that the breach of contract was entirely on the part of the master?—So far as it fell under my notice.

7846. Supposing the masters were to take the same view that you do of the sufficiency of labour, is your objection to immigration so great that you would take any means to prevent immigration conducted voluntarily into Jamaica?—Certainly not any voluntary immigration; let as many people go there as please.

7847. Then your only objection to immigration is, to immigration carried on out of the public funds?—I would say, let the labourers come voluntarily from any part of the world under proper regulations.

7848. Do you consider that the regulations of the Immigration Act, generally speaking, are such as would be proper to secure the comfort of the immigrant?—I thought so at the time, provided that a large number were not introduced, as we had reason to fear, from the coast of Africa; it was then applied to those who were coming from the United States of America, and perhaps from some of the states of Europe; and at that time it did appear to meet the wants of the case, though I have found since that it did not, and that the Act has not been exactly carried out in its spirit.

7849. I will call your recollection to the 28th section; do you remember that, under that section, persons employing immigrants without the written permission of the agent, and without having complied with those provisions which I have referred to, is liable to a penalty?—I do not remember it particularly; but I see the nature of it.

7850. Then do you consider that if they are liable to such a penalty, levied by informers, the usual mode of levying penalties, that would be sufficient remedy against any transgression of the law?—I think it would.

7851. Sir *C. Douglas.*] You stated that you were well acquainted with the parish of St. George, where you have property?—With some part of it.

7852. The want of continuous labour is severely felt in that parish?—There has been more unwise conduct on the part of the employers to the labourers in that parish than in any other part of the island, which I believe to be the cause of that; I was requested by a planter in St. George's to go over and settle the disputes between him and his labourers, therefore I am well acquainted with the state of things in that quarter of the island.

7853. Mr. *Godson.*] May I take the liberty to ask you in what occupation in life you had been before you went to Jamaica?—I was for many years before I went to Jamaica the manager of a county fire-office.

7854. Had you anything to do with the cultivation of land in England?—Nothing whatever, except that I had a few acres of my own land, and lived in the midst of farmers.

7855. Therefore you could not have taken the management of a sugar estate?—Certainly not.

7856. Do you think that the planters are at all acquainted with the matter?—Certainly.

7857. Do you think that from their experience they are able to attend to their own business?—Undoubtedly.

7858. Then if they themselves are all aware that they cannot make anything of their estates, you do not impute it to any want of intellect on their part?—If they are really aware of it, I do not impute it to a want of intellect.

7859. Are you aware of any single estate that made any profit in the year 1840?—Yes, several.

7860. Will you name one?—I will give Golden Grove, in the parish of St Thomas's-in-the-East; I would give a large estate of Lord Ward's, in Clarendon; it was stated to me that large profits were made on that estate.

7861. Your information is, that in the year 1840, Lord Ward's estate produced a profit?—I was informed that one of his estates had produced a profit.

7862. Who informed you of that?—I have no objection to state; my friend Richard Hill, of Spanish Town, gave me the amount which it was said to have realised in 1839 or 1840; I understood the clear profits to have exceeded 13,000 *l.*

7863. Is that estate called Witney?—It is.

7864. How

7864. How many acres do you imagine that estate to be?—I think they have 300 acres in cane.

7865. Would you be surprised to hear that the estate is not 200 acres which made those 13,000 *l.* profit?—I should be perfectly astonished. There is a large quantity of pasture land attached to it, and wood land, and so forth.

7866. Were you told that there was any pasture land attached to it?—I do not know that I was told so, but I have no doubt of it whatever; I do not see how a sugar estate could be cultivated without it.

7867. Is not the pasture estate of Lord Ward called Rhymesbury in another parish, from which the cattle are brought to Witney?—There is some pasture in Rhymesbury.

7868. Is there a single acre, according to your informant, of pasture land in the Witney estate?—I cannot say that there is, because I did not visit the estate; I only speak from hearsay; he said nothing of pasture, but I supposed that it was the same as on other sugar estates. Then we will say that Rhymesbury and Witney go together, and what one wants the other supplies.

7869. Then taking the pasture of Rhymesbury and Witney, were you informed that the profits were 13,000*l.*?—I was assured by this gentleman that he had understood it to be so, and he believed it to be so; but whether sterling or currency I cannot remember.

7870. Excepting those estates, I do not understand you to say that you heard of any other that made any profit?—Yes, I heard of many others; Drax-hall, in St. Anne's.

7871. Do you confirm the opinion, that Drax-hall produced 5,000*l.* profit?—I can confirm nothing, because I only know what others have told me.

7872. When you were at Clarendon did you go into the neighbouring parishes, such as Vere, for instance?—Yes, I paid a visit to Charles Sconce, the senior magistrate of Vere, and went over his estate and on the borders of adjoining estates.

7873. Had the labourers provision-grounds there?—No, they had scarcely any in Vere, wages were consequently higher.

7874. What did you find the wages to be in Vere?—I think they were earning about half a dollar a day; from 1*s.* 6 *d.* to half a dollar.

7875. Were they not higher than that?—For doing job-work they were sometimes higher.

7876. As high as 4*s.* or 5*s.*?—Not for a day's work; they were earning a good deal, and they found it necessary in consequence of having no provision-grounds.

7877. Were they not, under these peculiar circumstances, earning sometimes as much as 5*s.* a day?—I met with one instance where they were making a penguin hedge, and they told me with great satisfaction that they were earning 5*s.* a day; they had outwitted their master.

7878. Did not they very often gain 3*s.* and 4*s.* a day?—They may do so.

7879. Supposing it was attempted to carry on the share system in Jamaica, could that possibly apply to such a parish as Vere?—Certainly not; I saw enough of the share system at Hayti to make me satisfied that wages are the only proper way of paying the labourers.

7880. Therefore, with respect to that share system, you are of opinion that it cannot possibly apply to sugar estates?—It does not apply to them, it fails in Hayti.

7881. Would not the manuring of the land in order to begin to plant be quite out of the power of the negro; could he possibly have any means of purchasing the manure necessary for planting the cane crop?—He would not have sufficient capital even to begin with.

7882. Nor cattle and other things to carry on the cultivation?—No.

7883. Therefore in your opinion it is quite idle to talk of the share system with respect to a sugar estate?—I conceive it to be altogether visionary.

7884. You have once or twice stated that no attorney in Jamaica would show you a balance-sheet; could any attorney have any balance-sheet to show; would not the balance-sheet be in England?—Certainly, but he would keep a copy of it; he would send to England a copy of his own books.

7885. He would keep a copy of what occurred upon the estate, but before the profit or loss could be ascertained the balance-sheet must be made out in England?—Yes, but what I meant by balance-sheet was something to show me

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what the expenses and what the income of the different estates were, and in no case could I get a planter to give me that.

7886. Does it not occur to you that that could not possibly be there?—I think the planters are made acquainted with the result in England; I know that it is so on one large estate.

7887. You have mentioned also that there might be an improvement in the mode of cultivation; are the Committee to understand that there is any suggestion you can offer by which improvements might be made?—Only that the plough might be more generally introduced, and it is getting into use.

7888. Is it not in use in Vere?—Yes; but I do not think in other parishes it is so generally used as it might be; in Westmoreland and on some of the hilly estates they object to the use of it, because the ground is not suited to it.

7889. Are you of opinion that it would be better for the negro race altogether if the sugar cultivation were removed from the island?—No; I should wish to see the staples of the country encouraged.

7890. Then you are not of opinion that it would be better to drive the sugar cane out altogether and leave the negro population to live upon their little holdings?—Certainly not.

7891. You have been asked respecting medical attendance; are you aware of what was the average per head paid during slavery for medical attendance?—I do not remember at this moment.

7892. Reminding you that 13*s.* 4*d.* per head was the sum under the old contract, are there not numbers of instances in which the proprietors have offered to continue that, and the negroes have refused to receive the medical man?—The medical men have endeavoured to make such contracts with the labourers, and the labourers have begun paying the first quarter; and when they have had no advantage from it, as they supposed, they are fickle, and they give up those contracts.

7893. But has not the planter himself offered to pay for medical attendance?—I believe that has been offered, but I do not remember any particular case.

7894. You have been asked respecting the ill effects of immigration, supposing it took place in large numbers; but supposing it took place in small numbers, for instance, of from 3,000 to 5,000 a year, does it strike you that that would have any prejudicial effect, distributed over a large island like Jamaica?—If they have capital enough in Jamaica to employ the additional labourers, I have not the least objection to it, if the provisions of the Immigration Act are fairly observed by them.

7895. Assuming that the Government take it into their own hands, and therefore, we may suppose, do it in a proper manner, and assuming that the island itself paid such expense, would not a regular stream of immigration rather assist than do harm?—No, I think not, because there is not capital enough in Jamaica to give the labour there its profitable direction; they have not capital enough to extend their cultivation. Let capital flow in, and there is land enough for an extended cultivation undoubtedly; but can you insure that capital will go in as well as labourers? as without this immigration will produce misery somewhere.

7896. When you speak of an extension of the cultivation, do you speak of the quantity of land cultivated now or in the years of slavery?—I mean the quantity cultivated in the time of slavery.

7897. Is there two-thirds now cultivated of what was cultivated in the time of slavery?—Yes; I do not think any great quantity of land has been thrown out of cultivation.

7898. Have not great quantities of land been thrown out of cultivation on some estates?—Some land has been thrown out of cultivation; but taking it altogether I do not think that it is of any great extent.

7899. Should you not calculate that at least one third of the quantity under the time of slavery has been thrown out of cultivation, taking, for instance, the year 1834?—I should say not; I have no reason to believe that anything like the extent of one third has been thrown up; I believe altogether it amounts to a very small number of acres.

7900. When you speak of the amount of wages being fair, at what average price do you put sugar in England?—When I speak of the fairness of the wages, I am looking at the quantity of labour in the market, the demand for labour and the supply; the wages will be regulated between the demand and supply; certainly

tainly it is perfectly fair now, as the masters are willing to give it, and the men can obtain it, that they should have it; and is 1*s.* 6*d.* a day too much for a man working under a tropical sun?

7901. One shilling and sixpence a day would not be too much provided the planter could pay it?—If he had not the means of paying it he would not pay it.

7902. Would not a person who had 50,000*l.* or 60,000*l.* invested in an estate rather go on for two or three years at a loss than at once throw it up?—Then, at the end of that time, he would throw it up.

7903. Is not the result of your knowledge of Jamaica, that the planters were paying large wages out of their capital?—No, it is not; nor do I believe that it is so.

7904. Mr. *Hawes.*] You have told the Committee that you have no objection to immigration upon principle, provided that immigration is carried on by means of private capital, subject, of course, to proper superintendence on the part of the authorities there?—Not the least; I am quite a friend to it.

7905. Mr. *Godson.*] You spoke of the negroes that you found upon Dr. Spalding's estate; were they not liberated from a slave ship?—Yes.

7906. And therefore they came in unexpectedly?—Yes.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

I.—EMIGRATION FROM THE WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA TO THE WEST INDIES.

CORRESPONDENCE between the Secretary of State and the Governors of *Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad,* and *Sierra Leone,* relative to EMIGRATION from *Sierra Leone* and the Western Coast of *Africa* to the above Colonies; together with the RULES and REGULATIONS adopted thereupon.

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APPENDIX.

I.—Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

Appendix I

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

CORRESPONDENCE between the Secretary of State and the Governors of *Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad,* and *Sierra Leone,* relative to EMIGRATION from *Sierra Leone* and the Western Coast of *Africa* to the above Colonies; together with the RULES and REGULATIONS adopted thereupon.

— No. 1. —

No. 1.
Lord John Russell to Governor Light.
9 June 1840.

(No. 88.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor *Light.*

Sir, Downing-street, 9 June 1840.

I TRANSMIT to you the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Governor of Sierra Leone, respecting the wish which is entertained by many of the Maroons and original settlers of that colony to emigrate to the West Indies; and I have to desire that you will transmit to me any information which you may consider likely to be acceptable to Governor Doherty, in explanation of the advantages which might be placed within the reach of any able-bodied natives who may be desirous of transferring their labour to British Guiana.

Governor Light,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Russell.*

(Similar Despatches addressed to the Governors of Jamaica and Trinidad.)

Enclosure in No. 1.

(No. 9.)—COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Doherty* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Government House, Sierra Leone, 20 March 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that a pretty extensive and growing disposition exists at present among the liberated African population, both of Freetown and the villages, to emigrate from the colony to their native countries to the southward and eastward. Some time ago, two small parties of 14 and 20 sailed for Badagry in the Bight of Benin; of which the first were, at their own request, landed and left at the British settlement of Accra, while of the second no intelligence has yet been received. At this moment not fewer than 200 persons, belonging chiefly to the Houssa country and the kingdom of Yarriba, lying east and west of the Niger, having subscribed the amount of four dollars each towards the formation of a fund, have purchased with it a condemned prize-vessel, in which it was their intention to proceed to Badagry, and from thence to seek their native homes, at a distance of some hundred miles inland. But as with this party were about to embark 100 children, I have deemed it imperative to prohibit for the present their departure and that of their parents. I have allowed passports for not more than 44 men and 17 women, who are all persons without children, and of an age so mature as renders them not likely to become the prey of the slave-dealer; and I shall wait until I am made acquainted with your Lordship's sentiments in the matter, before I permit the others to follow.

I have in vain cautioned them all against the dangers to which they may expose themselves, in returning without protection to those parts of the continent, of being again made captives, and again sold into slavery. They reply, that in their own countries they are free persons, and therefore not liable to be sold there, unless taken in war; and that in travelling through other territories in large bodies they encounter no risk. They allege that in this colony they are retarded in the career of improvement, that no opportunity is afforded them of increasing their means and further ameliorating their condition; and certainly they receive little encouragement from the Maroons and settlers, or from Europeans themselves,

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who on all occasions prefer for employment the tribes of Kroomen and Timmanees. The villagers complain that they are without a market for their produce. And to these causes is, no doubt, to be added, a restless spirit of change which appears to be natural to Africans.

At this moment it likewise happens that many of the Maroon and settler population, having been informed of the encouragement given to immigration in Trinidad and others of the West Indies, express the wish and purpose of removing thither with their families; and, in my opinion, nothing ought to be done to discourage their departure, which if, as they conceive, it would be beneficial to themselves, would undoubtedly be not less so to the colony. But I am desirous of knowing from your Lordship what course it would be advisable for me to pursue, in the event of any considerable number of liberated Africans being induced by their example to decide upon removing likewise to the same part of the world.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *R. Doherty*, Governor.

— No. 2. —

No. 2. Lord John Russell to Governor Doherty. 17 June 1840.

(No. 55.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor *Doherty*.

Sir, Downing-street, 17 June 1840.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 9, of the 20th of March last, reporting the disposition which is growing among the liberated African population of Sierra Leone to emigrate to the southward and eastward, or more properly, to return to their native countries.

I think that you have done right to discourage the designs of those liberated Africans who projected to leave the colony with children; but you may very well allow emigration to Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana. I shall write to the governors of those colonies to inquire as to the advantages which are placed there within the reach of able-bodied labourers, and shall take care to place you in possession of every information which I may receive on the subject.

I have, &c.

Governor Doherty, &c. &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

— No. 3. —

No. 3. Sir C. T. Metcalfe to Lord John Russell. 24 July 1840.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord, King's House, Jamaica, 24 July 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 88, relating to the wish entertained by the Maroons and other settlers, and liberated Africans of Sierra Leone, to emigrate to the West Indies.

2. Any of them, Maroons as well as others, but liberated Africans most of all, would be very acceptable in Jamaica. If they came to labour for subsistence they would find employment, good wages, and food in abundance, in any branch of labour that might be most suitable to them. If they brought money, and wished to purchase land, they would find land procurable with ease in any quantity. If their object were to be set up in business, or whatever line of life they might choose, they would find ample means of following their inclinations.

3. No immigrants from any nation would be more acceptable in this colony; for although we are compelled by necessity to seek labourers anywhere, none are considered by the generality of landholders to be so serviceable in this climate as those from Africa.

4. Mr. Barclay, who has proceeded as the Island Commissioner to America and England, for the purpose of encouraging emigration to this colony, will be glad, with your Lordship's sanction, to take any measures that may be practicable and expedient to facilitate the voluntary emigration of any of the free population of Africa to Jamaica; and if it were known here that any considerable number of the inhabitants of Sierra Leone were disposed and permitted to come, means would most probably be devised on the island to bring them.

5. A small party, calling themselves Maroons, lately found their way to the Port of Kingston from the coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe.*

— No. 4. —

No. 4. Governor Light to Lord John Russell. 17 July 1840.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 17 July 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 88, date 9th June, with its enclosure, copy of a letter from the Governor of Sierra Leone; on which I am desired to give such reports as may be acceptable to the Governor of Sierra Leone.

My

My opinion as to the advantages which this colony offers to labourers from tropical countries, I have more than once given. But I should view with jealousy any commencement of emigration from Sierra Leone, except under the control of Her Majesty's Government; the colonists here have, for the present at least, deprived themselves of the opportunity now presented to them to obtain labourers from Sierra Leone; they have associated themselves into an emigration society independent of authority; and if once their agents are admitted to the coast of Africa, the cupidity of the captains of vessels sent to receive volunteers for a freight, would most undoubtedly be tempted to fraudulent practice.

I beg to disclaim suspicion of the association; but were the association to exist for any length of time, its agents would find means to complete a deficient freight.

To return, however, to the advantages to be derived from settling in this colony. There are churches, chapels, schools, clergymen, pastors, catechists, and teachers of all sects, perhaps in greater numbers now than in the most favoured countries; the earth teems with fertility, the wages of the labourers are high, their dwellings far superior to any other West India colony I have visited; to these dwellings are attached lands for the cultivation of provisions; the labourers have the means of raising stock to any amount, for which high prices are given; if near the markets, they profit by these high prices; if at a distance, they are saved the expense of travelling to the market by hucksters, who go round the country to supply the markets, and purchase from the producers at a lower rate, but still sufficiently high to remunerate amply for the produce; while employed on estates, they have medical attendance and medicine gratis; if in the towns, the colonial hospitals receive the sick. Boatmen, mechanics, are all in request; land is to be bought at a moderate price, though apparently high, because the purchaser benefits by the drainage paid for by the seller; and this is a heavy expense to an estate, from any part of which the purchaser is exempt.

If hereafter emigrants should be obtained from Sierra Leone, the proportion should be at least one able-bodied person in three; they should on no account come without their wives and families. Accompanied by these, they may have as much happiness and comfort, nay more, than in any country in the world; for if industrious, they can never want; if drunkards, they will die; if idle, they will commit crimes of greater or less magnitude, and become subject to the law; the stipendiary magistrates will redress their grievances, if unjustly treated; and if they commit crime that may bring them before the Supreme Court of Justice, they have counsel for their defence appointed gratis.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

— No. 5. —

No. 5. Lieut.-governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell. 21 July 1840.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *H. Macleod* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Trinidad, 21 July 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 9th ultimo, No. 27, enclosing a despatch from Governor Doherty, reporting the wish of many of the Maroons and old settlers in Sierra Leone to emigrate to this island, and desiring me to state the advantages which might be placed within the reach of such of them as may be desirous of transferring their labour to Trinidad.

I have communicated on this subject with the best-informed parties in the island, and I find a great and general desire to obtain the services of such people as these settlers. They will, therefore, find on their coming here an extensive demand for their labour.

In addition to being furnished with a house and provision-grounds, they will receive for each task half a dollar in money, an allowance of half a pound of fish per task, and a small allowance of rum, or of money in lieu thereof, for each task, two of which are frequently performed in one day. As regards their conveyance to Trinidad, I find that if there were a probability of any considerable number of people coming, the outward-bound ships to this island would make arrangements to call at Sierra Leone; or if your Lordship should prefer, without further communication, to instruct Colonel Doherty to meet the wishes of the Maroons and other settlers desirous of removing themselves hither, he might be authorized to take up the necessary tonnage according to the provisions of the Passengers' Act; in either case I would propose that the sum of 25 dollars a head should be paid for the passage of each person willing to work as an agricultural labourer. I would remark, however, that although we offer no encouragement by way of free passage to mechanics and others, that persons of that description are sure of finding ample employment with high wages.

On this subject, however, I write under the impression that your Lordship's attention will be directed to that part of the Queen's Order in Council of the 30th September 1839, which disallows so much of our Immigration Ordinance as refers to the introduction of emigrants from Africa, and that you will be pleased, if you think fit, to countenance the wish of these people to authorize me to make an exception in their favour.

If your Lordship should think it necessary to appoint an agent to superintend the

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embarkation of these people, and to inspect the vessels in which they should take their passage, perhaps Colonel Doherty would be good enough, with your Lordship's permission, to appoint one, at the charge of this colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod*

—No. 6.—

No. 6.
Lord John Russell to Governor Doherty.
21 August 1840.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor *Doherty*.

Sir, Downing-street, 21 August 1840.

I TRANSMIT to you enclosed copies of a correspondence which has passed between Messrs. Stewart and Westmorland, and Mr. H. Hendricks and myself, on the subject of the emigration of free Africans from Sierra Leone to the West Indies.

For the present I have to instruct you to report to me the view which you take of this question, as it bears on the welfare of the liberated Africans, and on that of the colony of Sierra Leone; and I have further to desire that you will in the meantime watch vigilantly any attempts at crimping or kidnapping any of Her Majesty's subjects on pretence of emigration.

I have, &c.

Governor Doherty, &c. &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

Enclosure 1 in (A).

Sir, Winchester House, Broad-street, 22 July 1840.

WE shall feel obliged by your informing us, if it is permitted to engage free Africans at Sierra Leone to attend to agricultural purposes in Jamaica; and if any and what regulations must be attended to, in conveying them to that island.

We have, &c.

James Stephen, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *A. Stewart & Westmorland.*

Enclosure 2 in (A).

Gentlemen, Downing-street, 28 July 1840.

I HAVE laid before Lord John Russell your letter of the 22d instant, in which you inquire whether it be permitted to engage free Africans at Sierra Leone to attend to agricultural pursuits in Jamaica, and whether any and what regulations must be attended to in conveying them to that island.

His Lordship directs me to acquaint you in reply, that he is not aware of there being any law in force at Sierra Leone, which would prevent the emigration from that place to Jamaica of any of Her Majesty's subjects residing there; but that if any such emigration should become frequent, or should be undertaken on an extensive scale, any abuses to which such a practice might be found to give rise would probably require some new regulations for the prevention of such abuses.

I have, &c.

Messrs. Stewart and Westmorland, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *R. Vernon Smith*

Enclosure 3 in (A).

My Lord, 2, Copthall Chambers, City, 20 July 1840.

I BEG leave to refer to your Lordship's letter of the 3d instant to Mr. George Laing.

I am desirous of knowing if a vessel will be permitted to proceed to Sierra Leone for the purpose of taking on board free Africans intended for Demerara or some of the British West India islands, and to be employed there as agricultural labourers; and if so permitted, whether there are any and what regulations to be complied with.

This information is required in aid of the intentions for which the West India Immigration Society has been formed.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. Hendricks.*

Enclosure 4 in (A).

Sir, Downing-street, 28 July 1840.

I AM directed by Lord John Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, in which you inquire whether a vessel will be permitted to proceed to Sierra Leone for the purpose of taking on board free Africans intended for Demerara or some of the

the British West India islands, and to be employed there as agricultural labourers; and if so, whether there are any and what regulations to be complied with: and I am to acquaint you in reply, that his Lordship is not aware of there being any law in force at Sierra Leone, which would prevent the emigration from that place to the West Indies of any of Her Majesty's subjects residing there; but if any such emigration should become frequent, or should be undertaken on an extensive scale, any abuses to which such a practice might be found to give rise, would probably require some new regulations for the prevention of such abuses.

I have, &c.

H. Hendricks, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *R. Vernon Smith.*

— No. 7. —

No. 7.
Lord John Russell to Governor Doherty.
10 September 1840.

(No. 78.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor *Doherty*.

Sir, Downing-street, 10 Sept. 1840.

REFERRING to my despatch, No. 55, of the 17th of June, in which I stated my intention to instruct the Governors of Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana, to make inquiry as to the advantages which might be enjoyed by able-bodied African labourers desirous of emigrating to those islands, I now transmit to you copies of the reports which I have received from those governors upon the subject.

In my subsequent despatch, No. 73, of the 21st of August, I have instructed you to report the view which you take of the question of emigration as it bears on the welfare of the liberated Africans, and on that of the colony of Sierra Leone; and I have desired you to watch vigilantly all attempts at crimping or kidnapping any of Her Majesty's subjects on pretence of emigration.

I have only now to repeat this last injunction, and to instruct you to frame regulations in conformity with the Colonial Passengers' Act of last session, of which I transmit a copy. Should any considerable number of Africans appear disposed to emigrate, it may become necessary to appoint an officer specially charged with the duty of carrying into effect these regulations, and any instructions which Her Majesty may be pleased to give upon the subject.

I have, &c.

Governor Doherty,
&c. &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

— No. 8. —

No. 8.
Lord John Russell to Governor Light.
30 December 1840.

(No. 150.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor *Light*.

Sir, Downing-street, 30 December 1840.

AFTER mature consideration, Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that they will be justified in admitting the colony of Sierra Leone into the list of the places from which emigrants may be introduced into British Guiana, under the provisions of any Ordinance which may be proposed by the Government and Court of Policy, in the terms which have been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

To Governor Light,
&c. &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

— No. 9. —

No. 9.
Governor Light to Lord John Russell.
23 February 1841.

(No. 23.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell*.

Sir, Government House, Demerara, 23 Feb. 1841.

YOUR Lordship's despatch, No. 150, date 30th December, by which permission was granted to include Sierra Leone in the list of places whence emigrants for this colony might be sought, was published for general information by my order, and it attracted the notice of the unofficial members of the Court of Policy.

Accordingly, they requested an interview with me as a body. I preferred, however, to receive their communication on the subject in court, and assembled it, though adjourned to the 25th instant, on the 15th. Mr. Rose having explained that he wished immediate advantage to be taken of the permission, I read a short minute, of which I have the honour to transmit copy.

I have always wished to encourage emigration on fair terms; and as the Emigration Ordinance (No. 4, 1841), passed by Sir Henry Macleod, had been published, and consequently was law, I hesitated not to carry it into effect, and issued a proclamation, of which the annexed is a copy. The unofficial members having requested me to allow them to hire

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a vessel for the purpose of communicating with Sierra Leone and Madeira, I appointed a committee of three non-officials and one official, to make the preliminary arrangements.

It appears that a large number of the peasantry of Madeira, excited by the intelligence of the success of their fellow-citizens in this town, and of the money to be obtained by their industry even as agriculturists, have applied to a respectable merchant in Madeira to obtain a passage for them. I have therefore communicated to that person the terms of the Immigration Ordinance, and my proclamation appointing him agent for the colony, which has been fixed at 150 *l.* per annum.

I considered it would be more for the advantage of the colonists that the Governor of Sierra Leone should have the appointment of an agent, whose salary has been limited to 400 *l.* per annum. I have therefore transmitted to him a blank commission, to be filled up at his pleasure. It will prevent all jealousy of the acts of this government, and will I hope prove that no unfair objects are desired.

The appointment of an agent-general resident in this colony was to me a subject of deep consideration. Luckily I was relieved from my difficulty of selection by an application from Mr. James Hackett, who had arrived here from Canada some short time ago to look after property, his possession, in this colony. His antecedents of service under Sir Benjamin D'Urban, Sir Michael M'Turk's estimation of him and recommendation, and your Lordship's favourable disposition towards him in your letter of introduction to Lord Sydenham in July last, which was laid before me, enabled me at once to decide, and I felt happy in securing the services of an intelligent, active, and independent-minded man, not unknown to your Lordship, for the important object of attention to the emigrants on their first arrival, and for carrying into effect the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of emigration. I respectfully submit Mr. Hackett's appointment for your Lordship's approbation.

I have the honour to annex a copy of my letter to Sir John Jeremie.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Guiana Public Buildings,

Sir, Demerara, 17 February 1841.

In consequence of the colony under your Excellency's government being one of the places from whence Her Majesty's Government have permitted emigration to the West India Colonies, I have deemed it advisable, in compliance with the wishes of the Court of Policy of this colony, to despatch a vessel to Sierra Leone for the purpose of conveying my proclamation to your Excellency, and of placing at your Excellency's disposal a commission for the appointment of an agent to encourage and regulate the emigration to this colony of labourers in husbandry, and Kroomen, from such parts of the continent of Africa as are within the limits of your government, and in accordance with the recent instructions from Her Majesty's Government. I hope your Excellency will excuse the trouble I have imposed upon you in leaving the nomination of this officer in your Excellency's hands, for whom, I beg to state, a salary, at your Excellency's discretion, not exceeding 400 *l.* sterling per annum, has been voted by the Court of Policy, to be drawn for quarterly, in the same manner as officers on half-pay draw their bills, and payable at the house of Messrs. Hall, M'Gard & Co., London; to whom I beg your Excellency will be good enough to give notice of the appointment.

Although the immediate object of my sending this vessel is to place your Excellency and the inhabitants of Sierra Leone in possession of my proclamation, she has, nevertheless, been fitted up for the reception of passengers, and will bring any number, not exceeding the Act of Parliament, that may be disposed to try their fortunes in British Guiana. The rate of wages to labourers here varies from one-third to half a dollar, for a task that can readily be finished by one or two o'clock in the afternoon. The cottages provided for labourers are mostly of a very comfortable description; their protection is amply secured through the vigilance of an efficient stipendiary magistracy; and their religious and moral improvement are equally well provided for.

My instructions, under pain of dismissal from his office, to the agent-general here, with regard to new comers, are, that he is to prevent emigrants from being located, on their first arrival, on estates where there is want of ample accommodation in cottages, or the slightest reason to doubt of liberal treatment. Under these circumstances, I can venture to claim your Excellency's good offices in favour of British Guiana.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir John Jeremie, Governor, &c. &c. &c. Sierra Leone.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

— No. 10. —

No. 10. Lord John Russell to Governor Sir J. Jeremie. 20 March 1841.

(No. 24.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor Sir *J. Jeremie.*

Sir, Downing-street, 20 March 1841.

By my despatch of the 10th of September last, No. 78, I instructed your predecessor to frame rules for regulating emigration from Sierra Leone, in conformity with the provisions of the Colonial Passengers' Act, which was passed in the last session of Parliament; and I intimated

I intimated to him at the same time that if any considerable number of liberated Africans should appear disposed to emigrate, it might become necessary to appoint an officer to be specially charged with the duty of carrying into execution the regulations which might be established in regard to emigration, as well as any instructions which Her Majesty's Government might think proper to issue on the subject.

By a previous despatch of the 21st of August, No. 74, I had instructed Governor Doherty to report to me on the question of emigration generally.

Not only, however, has no such report as yet reached my hands, but no communication has been received of the regulations which may have been established in pursuance of my instruction, No. 78; and as several vessels have recently been despatched from this country for the purpose of receiving on board such persons as might be willing to emigrate from the colony to the West Indies, I think it advisable to apprise you at once of the view which I take generally of this question.

I consider the establishment of a regular intercourse between Africa and the West Indies will tend greatly not only to the prosperity of the British West Indian possessions, but likewise to the civilization of Africa.

A new epoch has arrived for the African race. We have in the West Indies 800,000 negroes, of whom perhaps three-fourths are Christians, in the enjoyment of practical freedom, of means of education and of physical comfort to a very high degree. There is no reason to suppose that their advances in wealth, knowledge, and religious improvement may not be in proportion to the most hopeful anticipations. Nothing like this state of society exists among the African race elsewhere. In Hayti there is a very low standard of government and civilization; in Cuba, in Brazil, and in the United States, slavery; in Africa, slavery, human sacrifices, and the most degrading superstitions.

We have made in the last 10 years a wonderful and successful experiment. But its consequences are yet to be developed, and may far exceed the present good which has been effected, great and surprising as that has been.

I send to you herewith a printed summary of all the papers which have been presented to Parliament in explanation of the progress of industry and general condition of society in the West Indies since the 1st of August 1838.

Applying the preceding observations to the subject of emigration, I am entirely opposed to any plan for taking the liberated Africans to the West Indies against their will. But, on the other hand, I consider that we are not bound to maintain in the colony of Sierra Leone all the captured negroes who are sent thither, and that Africans landed there in future should, at the expiration of three months, be bound, 1st, to show that they are in a state to maintain themselves on the spot; or, 2dly, to signify their consent to emigrate to the West Indies; or, 3dly, to leave the colony.

In laying down the rule that liberated Africans should be able to maintain themselves after the expiration of three months from the time of their being landed in the colony, I do not include the expense of their superintendents, and of other administrative officers.

I think it desirable that you should communicate fully and openly on all these points with the ministers of religion in the colony.

I further consider that it is time to appoint an agent, whose duty it shall be to watch over the execution of the laws and regulations affecting emigration. I enclose a sketch of the instructions which you will give to that agent. I do not prescribe these instructions as an inflexible rule, but as embodying my views of the principles by which I consider that it is at least desirable that emigration from the colony should be regulated in the first instance. You will perceive that I have omitted to lay down any rule as to the proportion of females who may accompany the male emigrants. Undoubtedly it would be desirable that the number of the former should equal the number of the latter; but it is obvious that the adoption of such a rule would have the effect of restricting emigration within limits so narrow as to amount to a total prohibition. I should feel satisfied, therefore, if you could apply in all cases the rule adopted by the Legislature of Jamaica, which requires that the females accompanying male emigrants should be in the proportion of one-third. But I do not expect that you should feel yourself enabled to insist upon that rule generally. It would be wholly inapplicable, for instance, to the Kroomen, whose custom it is not to bring their wives with them to the colony, but who may be very desirous of engaging themselves to the West Indian agents.

Upon the whole, therefore, I consider it most advisable that emigration from the colony should be chiefly regulated by the laws of those colonies to which the emigrants are to proceed.

I enclose to you a copy of Her Majesty's Order in Council regulating immigration into Trinidad, and I shall take another opportunity of transmitting to you a copy of the new enactment of the Legislature of Jamaica on the same subject. The enactment of the Legislature of British Guiana has not as yet been allowed by Her Majesty.

Vide p. 631.

Before I conclude, I must call your attention to a suggestion which has been communicated to me by a gentleman who is in every respect qualified to form a sound judgment on this subject. He has suggested, namely, that in order to satisfy the liberated Africans and the Kroomen of the prospects which await them in the West Indies, the principal tribes of those people should be called upon, by means of influential persons of those tribes resident in Freetown, to select each two men in whom they have confidence, and that the delegates so selected should be furnished with a passage free of expense to the West Indies and back. These men should of course be used well during their voyage; an allowance of, say 2 *l.* a month, should be granted to them during their short absence, and their

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wives and families should be supported during the same period. Dr. Fergusson has been mentioned to me as the fittest person to be consulted as to the preliminary arrangements to be made on the occasion.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir John Jeremie, Knt.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

Enclosure in No. 10.

HEADS of INSTRUCTIONS for the Government Emigration Agent for Sierra Leone, resident in that Colony.

THE attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies having been directed to an inquiry, whether a disposition to emigrate exists amongst the Maroons, and other settlers and liberated Africans in Sierra Leone, and also to the want of labour at present experienced in the West Indies, it has appeared to his Lordship expedient to advise Her Majesty to sanction the passing of enactments in certain of the West Indian colonies, offering encouragement to emigration from Sierra Leone to those colonies.

The office of emigration agent at Sierra Leone is created, in order that the Government may be better enabled to watch over the progress and result of any such emigration, and to counteract any mischievous tendency it may be found to have.

The chief abuses which suggest themselves as likely to occur, are impositions and deceptions in the collection of emigrants, mistakes in the identity of the parties who agree to go, and ill-treatment during the voyage.

In preventing as far as possible those abuses, his principal duties may be conveniently pointed out under three heads:—

I. With respect to the mode of collecting emigrants, four conditions are indispensable:

1st. The emigrants should have been resident upwards of at least six weeks in the colony previously to their embarkation.

2d. The emigrants at the time of their embarkation should be in a good state of bodily health.

3d. They should embark with their free consent, and without the practice of any force, fraud, or imposition, to induce them to do so.

4th. They should be made to comprehend, by adequate explanations, the nature and probable consequences of their removal, so far as they themselves would be affected by it.

The first condition is a necessary precaution to prevent slave dealers from bringing slaves to Sierre Leone to be exported as emigrants.

Should this precaution prove insufficient, the Government emigration agent for Sierra Leone will apply to the Governor of that colony for further instructions on the subject.

To ensure the fulfilment of the second condition, a medical practitioner should examine every emigrant before he is accepted for a passage. A medical certificate should then be given to the master of the ship, to be delivered by him to the agent for emigration in the colony to which the ship is bound. Every emigrant should also have been vaccinated before he embarks.

With respect to the third and fourth conditions, every emigrant before he embarks should have communicated in person with the emigration agent of the colony to which he may agree to proceed, and should have received from such agent full information on those points connected with his removal which have been before adverted to.

An emigrant capable of taking a proper view of his own interest might naturally be expected to inquire—

1st. What would be the length of the voyage, and the difficulty, or the means afforded, of returning.

2d. Whether, in the country to which it was his intention to proceed, it was customary to engage labourers by the day or by the year, or for a longer period, or for job-work.

3d. Whether, in return for his free passage, he would be bound to engage himself to any particular master for any fixed period, and at a fixed rate of wages.

4th. What was the rate of wages and other advantages, such as lodgings, provisions, clothing, medical attendance, &c., usually given to black labourers.

5th. Whether the wages would be paid regularly, or whether any deductions would be made on account of sickness or any other cause.

6th. What was the usual length of a day's work, at what hour it commenced, and at what hour it left off, and what time was allowed for meals.

7th. What was the cost of sustenance, and what were the usual articles of food in the colony.

8th. Whether it was usual to work at extra hours during the season of crop, and whether any and what pay was given for such extra work.

Such are the inquiries which a free black, proposing to emigrate to the West Indies, might be expected to make; and therefore to every intending emigrant, as accurate information on each of these points should be given, as circumstances will admit.

To ensure attention to this subject, every emigrant who has been accepted for a passage should be furnished with a printed paper, signed by the agent of emigration for the colony to which he may agree to proceed, containing this and any other particular information which the emigration agent for Sierra Leone may find it convenient to require. The date at which the paper was given to him should be written upon the paper, and 21 days should be

be allowed him to consider of the matter; during which time he should be in communication with one of the officers of the establishment for superintending liberated Africans, who should be instructed to read and to explain to the emigrant the above-mentioned paper. After the period just named, the emigrant should be desired to set his own mark to the paper; and the emigration agent for Sierra Leone will witness under his own hand that this has been done in his presence.

The preceding remarks are intended to point out some of the precautions that the emigration agent for Sierra Leone will have to take for securing to the emigrants protection against imposition in the mode of their selection. But in order that the emigrants may be selected with due regard to their usefulness in the West Indies, some further conditions seem necessary.

1st. Character and previous habits should be inquired into; and no person should be considered eligible who is addicted to intoxication, or any other scandalous vice.

2d. Married couples of about 30 years of age should be considered as the most eligible, and no emigrant should be above the age of 45 years.

3d. No emigrant should be allowed to leave behind him his wife, any young children, or infirm parents, who would be deprived thereby of the means of subsistence; or to leave the colony without public notice, such as the Governor shall think sufficient to enable any person having claims upon him to prefer them as an objection to his departure.

II. With regard to the measures to be adopted in order to insure that the identical parties embark who have agreed to go, every person or family should be furnished, at the time he or they are accepted for a passage, with a certificate of such acceptance, by the selecting officer of the colony for which he is destined; and the selecting officers should be required to make out and furnish the emigration agent for Sierra Leone with a descriptive return, specifying the name, the age, and the description of every person or family accepted, so as to enable him to ascertain the identity of all such emigrants at the time of embarkation. Annexed is a form of certificate of acceptance, and of a descriptive return, which are to be adopted.

III. With regard to the treatment of the emigrants during the voyage, the emigration agent for Sierra Leone can of course have no means of exercising a direct control. But it will be his duty to ascertain that the ship is seaworthy, and a proper vessel, and properly fitted for the voyage; to take care that the number of passengers does not exceed the number allowed by the Colonial Passengers' Act, and that the part of the ship in which the emigrants are placed is not overcrowded with cargo or goods, whether belonging to the emigrants or not; to superintend the berthing, and other arrangements for the accommodation of the passengers; and, finally, to furnish the master of every ship with instructions and rules to be observed on board during the voyage. The quantity of good and wholesome provision put on board every ship must be equivalent to the quantity required to be put on board by the 3d section of the British Passengers' Act, according to the computed length of the voyage.

But the emigration agent for Sierra Leone will be at liberty to substitute for the articles of food mentioned in that section, any other kind of provisions which he may deem more suitable to the particular people to be maintained. Besides seeing that the proper quantity is put on board for the whole voyage, it will also be desirable that a scale of victualling should be made out for each day in the week, in a similar form to the one which has been hitherto adopted in the Government emigration ships to New South Wales; a copy of this scale is annexed for the information of the emigration agent for Sierra Leone.

There should be a medical practitioner, and at least one interpreter on board such ship.

A copy of the instructions given to the surgeons superintendent of Government emigrant ships sailing from this country, and also a copy of the rules used on board those vessels, are also enclosed for the information of that officer. It is the desire of the Secretary of State that these instructions and rules may be used, as far as they are applicable, to the case of ships sailing with emigrants from Sierra Leone.

Having thus explained the nature of the scheme of emigration which Her Majesty's Government are willing to sanction, it remains, in conclusion, to give a general outline of the duties, the execution of which will more particularly devolve on the emigration agent for Sierra Leone.

1st. To his office all persons in the colony who are desirous of obtaining information on the subject of emigration, should be referred.

2d. The Governors of the West Indian colonies, in which laws shall be in force for the regulation of emigration from Sierra Leone, will be directed to transmit to the Governor of Sierra Leone, for his information, the description of emigrants most required in the respective colonies, and of the advantages which they would there enjoy.

3d. The agents appointed to select emigrants for such colonies, will be directed to place themselves in communication with, and under his superintendence, and it will be his duty to furnish them with such local information and instructions as will enable them, with the least possible delay and difficulty, to effect the selection of a sufficient number of emigrants for any particular ship.

4th. For this purpose he will place himself in communication with the officers of the establishment for superintending liberated Africans, who will have to inform the persons under their charge of the opportunities of emigration, and to transmit to him lists of candidates for emigration.

5th. He will likewise receive, from time to time, from each of the selecting officers, a detailed report of their proceedings, with an accurate list of all the emigrants selected by

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them for his approval or rejection, specifying the names, ages, occupations, and length of residence in the colony of such emigrants, and the name of the ship in which they are to embark.

6th. He will personally attend at the embarkation of the emigrants, in order to ascertain that the parties who embark are the identical parties who have agreed to go, and that the arrangements for the voyage have been properly attended to. The lists of the emigrants by each ship should be signed by him as well as by the selecting officer, as instructions have been given to the respective Governors of the West Indian colonies to refuse the passage-money of any emigrants who have not been approved by him, and by the selecting officers.

7th. He will see that all engagements by or on behalf of the emigrants of the one part, and by the owners, agents, or masters of ships of the other part, are duly performed, and that the provisions of the Imperial Act for regulating the carriage of passengers to the West Indies, and of the several colonial Acts or Ordinances relating to emigration from Sierra Leone (copies of which will be forwarded for his information) are strictly complied with. The sea-worthiness of the ships, a sufficient supply of food, and water of a proper quality, the use of tight and sweet casks for the water, together with the suggestion of such arrangements as may appear to him desirable, with a view to the promotion of the health, comfort, and cleanliness of all on board, are matters to all of which he will be required to pay the strictest attention.

8th. He will transmit to the Governor of Sierra Leone, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, according to the enclosed form, a quarterly return showing, first, the number of emigrants who have embarked from the colony during the preceding quarter, distinguishing males from females, and adults from children; secondly, the vessels in which they have sailed, with the tonnage of each ship, the number of emigrants on board, and the place to which they are bound; thirdly, as often as any difficulties may present themselves, or as he may find himself in need of any specific directions, it will be his duty to apply to the Governor of Sierra Leone, who will convey to him such instructions as on a consideration of all the circumstances of the case, may appear to him necessary.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, in conclusion, that the best instructions, most rigidly followed, would probably fail in promoting the success of this measure, without constant attention on the part of the emigration agent for Sierra Leone to the duties he will have to perform, more particularly as regards the mode in which free blacks are selected for emigration.

He must always keep uppermost in his mind that, besides the procuring for the West Indian colonies a supply of useful labourers, the great object is the improvement of the condition of the negro population; and that, therefore, those persons only should be selected who are likely to be benefited by their removal to the West Indies.

List of Enclosures which accompany the Heads of Instructions.

1. Copy of the British Imperial Passengers' Act (5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 63).
2. Copy of the West Indian Imperial Passengers' Act (3 & 4 Vict. c. 21).
3. Copies of such Colonial Acts relating to Emigration as at the time of forwarding those instructions shall have been sanctioned.
4. Form of Certificate of Acceptance.
5. Form of Descriptive Return.
6. Scale of Victualling used on board Government Emigrant Ships.
7. Form of Quarterly Return to be made to the Governor.
8. Copy of Instructions given to the Surgeons Superintendent of Government Emigrant Ships sailing from the United Kingdom.
9. Copy of the Rules used on board those Vessels.

— No. 11. —

No. 11. Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell. 20 May 1841.

(No. 45.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord, Trinidad, 20 May 1841.

I hasten to inform your Lordship of the arrival of 181 immigrants from Sierra Leone.

As there has been much diversity of opinion on the question of African emigration, I have considered that you would wish to be put in possession of the earliest information connected with this, our first attempt at procuring labourers from that country; and I herewith transmit certain documentary proceedings relative thereto, as the mode best calculated to give your Lordship a true view of the subject.

I am happy to report that these people arrived in good health after a passage of 28 days, and I was rejoiced to find them much more advanced in every way than I had expected, all speaking good English, and many able to read and write.

This is to be traced to the Church Missionary and Methodist Societies, and reflects the highest credit on the exertions of these bodies.

I have seldom met persons more alive to their own interests, but I have recommended them to hire themselves in bodies of eight or ten; for besides thus diminishing the feeling

of

of strangeness, always more or less felt in a new country, it gives them a sort of mutual protection. I have also, as far as consistent with their free will, given the preference to estates in the districts nearest to the seat of government.

Sixteen of these immigrants are Kroomen, vastly superior in appearance and bearing to the other races. They generally confine their labour to the shipping, but the high wages and other advantages on the estates have tempted even these to take that employment; but I do not look to their remaining at that work, and their return to their usual occupation will be of great value to the shipping ports.

We must not look to these people as settlers, but if this island answers their expectations they tell me great numbers of their countrymen will come. They perfectly understand the facility afforded to them of returning to their native country by working their passage *viâ* England, and they are all, I believe, expert seamen. We shall thus establish a constant communication with Africa.

I enclose a statement of the terms upon which these immigrants have agreed on; but your Lordship will understand that they are perfectly free agents, and may leave their employers whenever they choose.

As this is an experiment which I always advocated, I shall naturally be most anxious on the subject, and your Lordship may depend upon the fullest information on all things connected with it that Her Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod,*
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosures in No. 11.

COPY of a LETTER from His Excellency Sir *John Jeremie,* Knt. Governor of *Sierra Leone,* to the Managers of the respective Districts.

Sir, Freetown, 18 March 1841.

Two gentlemen of great respectability have arrived in this colony with a view of enabling such portions of its population as choose to avail themselves of the opportunity, to proceed, principally as agricultural labourers, to the West Indies. Encl. in No. 11.

And as this is a matter of much importance, it appears to me desirable you should be instructed not in any way to interfere with their proceedings, which you are neither to encourage nor discourage.

The people are free to go or to remain, exactly as they see fit; at the same time, if any fears you consider unreal, or if any hopes you consider delusive, are held out to the population of your district, you will have the goodness to inform me.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Jeremie.*

The Managers of the respective Districts,
Sierra Leone.

NOTICE to Emigrants to the Island of *Trinidad.*

IN addition to being furnished with a house and provision grounds, they will receive for each task half a dollar in money, an allowance of half a pound of fish per task, and a small allowance of rum, or of money in lieu thereof, for each task, two of which are frequently performed in one day.

(signed) *W. Hamilton.*

18 March 1841.

PROCLAMATION.

BY his Excellency Sir *John Jeremie,* Knt. Captain-general and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of *Sierra Leone* and its Dependencies, between the 20th degree of North and the 20th degree of South Latitude; Vice-Admiral, Chancellor and Ordinary of the same, &c.

JOHN JEREMIE, the Governor, being required to substitute by proclamation, for the articles of food and provision specified in the Act of Parliament passed in the 5th & 6th years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, for "Regulating the carriage of Passengers in Merchant Vessels," such other articles of food and provisions as shall be equivalent for the same, having regard to the average duration of the voyage, and to the number of the passengers to be conveyed in any such ship, in such manner that the proportion prescribed in the said recited Act, between the probable number of days to be occupied by the voyage, and the number of days during which provision is made for the subsistence of the passengers, shall be duly preserved:

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The Governor now proclaims that the following scale for victualling adult emigrants from Sierra Leone shall be established, for that set forth in the before-recited Act; viz.

1 quart rice, or 3 lbs. yams or cocoas, or 1 lb. biscuit.
½ lb. salt pork, or salt fish, or herrings.
2 gills palm oil.
¼ gill salt.
1½ gallon water.

For children in the proportions settled by the Act.

And it is ordered, that on board each and every ship carrying African emigrants there shall be a provision of at least 1 lb. of yams or cocoas per day, for each and every adult passenger.

And it is also ordered, that the passage from Sierra Leone, and from the Gambia to Jamaica, or any other of Her Majesty's possessions in the West Indies, shall be considered likely to endure eight weeks, and from any part of the Gold Coast eleven weeks.

Given at Government-house this 30th day of March in the year of our Lord 1841, and of Her Majesty's reign the fourth.

By his Excellency's command.

(signed) *N. W. Macdonald,*
Colonial Secretary.

God save the Queen!

STATEMENT of the Terms on which the Immigrants from *Sierra Leone* have been engaged.

FOR each task, half a dollar, or 2*s.* 1*d.* sterling, with an allowance of half a pound of salt fish, pork, or beef, for each task, with a certain quantity of flour, rice, biscuit, or other farinaceous food.

House slated, tiled, or shingled, and floored.

As much land as they may choose to cultivate for a garden.

And medical attendance and medicines, in case of sickness, free of charge or deduction.

(signed) *Thomas F. Johnston,*
Agent-general of Immigrants.

— No. 12. —

(No. 48.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *John Russell.*

No. 12. Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell. 28 May 1841.

My Lord, Trinidad, 28 May 1841.

A DEPUTATION from the Agricultural Society waited on me some days ago, to request that I would appoint Mr. Hamilton, who has recently arrived here with the settlers from Sierra Leone, emigration agent for Trinidad at that place.

It is a matter of great importance to this colony, as we have to compete with others of larger resources, to have an active and intelligent person in that capacity, and I have named Mr. Hamilton to that situation, on a salary of 500*l.* sterling per annum, subject, of course, to your Lordship's approval.

But there are parts of Mr. Hamilton's letter which your Lordship would, I am sure, wish to be made acquainted with, in order that the Governor of Sierra Leone should likewise be put in possession of the fact that it is contemplated, it would appear, to carry this emigration beyond the limits of his settlement.

This, however, under his Excellency's surveillance, may perhaps be productive of great good, as establishing a communication with the adjacent tribes. I beg your Lordship will be good enough to cause Sir John Jeremie to be informed also that I adopt the terms offered in Mr. Hamilton's notice, dated the 18th of March, but that I request it may be distinctly understood that the house and provision-grounds are part of the wages, and not a distinct gift. It is quite fair that these people, leaving their own homes, should be fully aware that no land is granted to them, but that they become labourers for hire, on terms highly advantageous, certainly, in a pecuniary point of view.

I hope the true statement of what people are to expect will not cause the island to benefit less at the beginning of this emigration than the other colonies, but I am told that some of the immigrants were under the impression that land would be granted to them in the West Indies. I am sure your Lordship will see my only motive in correcting this idea is, that while I am bound to move in anything that can prosper this fine island, I am likewise called on to protect the ignorant from being tempted to leave their present abode on false promises and expectations that cannot be realized.

Your Lordship may be assured of the utmost exertion being made to cause everything to be fulfilled that has been held out to those who may come; and I have no hesitation in saying,

saying, that in none of Her Majesty's colonies have the rights and privileges of the labouring population been more respected by the persons employing them, than in Trinidad.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Macleod,*
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosures in No. 12.

Sir, Port of Spain, Trinidad, 24 May 1841.

Encl. in No. 12.

In reply to your letter of 22d instant, forwarding a resolution of the Agricultural Society, "That Mr. Hamilton be requested to accept the situation of emigration agent for this colony at Sierra Leone, provided his Excellency the Governor consents to make the appointment, and annex thereto a suitable salary; and that Mr. Hamilton be further requested to inform the committee, in writing, through the secretary, what remuneration he would expect to receive for efficiently discharging the duties of such office;"

I have to request you will express to the committee that I feel highly honoured at being considered worthy of being offered the appointment of emigration agent at Sierra Leone, an appointment involving interests of such magnitude and importance to this colony; and I beg you will assure the committee that I shall be proud and happy to accept such situation, should his Excellency the Governor consent to make the appointment.

With respect to the remuneration which should attach to such appointment, I beg to submit the following considerations for the information of the committee.

It would be desirable that the society's agent at Sierra Leone should be placed on such a footing as would allow him to devote his time and attention to the interests of the colony entirely, and to the exclusion of all other pecuniary considerations, with a salary which would give him some weight in the colony generally, and particularly with the Alicarlie and neighbouring chiefs on the Rokelle, and in the Timmanee and Sherbro countries, if the committee coincide in the opinion of the desirableness of an internal emigration.

In the discharge of the duties of emigration, the agent would find it desirable to visit the several settlements on the coast; to keep a horse and a boat, to visit the villages and sea districts of the colony, as well as the adjacent rivers.

Having been at Sierra Leone in the receipt of 400 *l.* per annum, with a house allowed me, I abandoned these to avail myself of the opportunities which that colony offers for improving my circumstances; seeing that any person engaged in the business of the colony, acting with ordinary prudence and activity, would find no difficulty in placing himself in the receipt of 1,000 *l.* per annum.

Although the last subject brought under the consideration of the committee, unquestionably the first in importance, the risk of life and the certainty of sickness (to judge from the experience of former residence), together with the deprivation of all family associations, would suggest the necessity of looking for a liberal remuneration.

Under these circumstances, I beg to observe, that a prudent, not to say an imperative consideration for personal circumstances, would not warrant my banishing myself to Sierra Leone under 1,000 *l.* per annum.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. Hamilton.*

John Losh, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Notice to Emigrants to the Island of Trinidad.

In addition to being furnished with a house and provision grounds, they will receive for each task half a dollar in money, an allowance of half a pound of fish per task, and a small allowance of rum, or of money in lieu thereof, for each task, two of which are frequently performed in one day.

18 March 1841. (signed) *W. Hamilton.*

— No. 13. —

(No. 127.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod.*

Sir, Downing-street, 14 July 1841.

No. 13.
Lord John Russell to Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod.
14 July 1841.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 45, of 20th May, reporting the arrival in Trinidad of 181 immigrants from Sierra Leone, and the measures you have adopted for obtaining them employment; your judicious conduct on this occasion meets my entire approval.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Russell.*

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod,
&c. &c. &c.

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— No. 14. —

(No. 59.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell.*

No. 14. Governor Light to Lord John Russell. 25 May 1841.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 25 May 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the merchant vessel Superior, hired by gentlemen connected with British Guiana in England, to proceed to Sierra Leone, for the purpose of procuring labourers for British Guiana, arrived here yesterday, 24th inst., bringing 200 effective Africans, most of them speaking English; the number first embarked, not diminished by a voyage of 23 days; only 35 women followed their husbands, the remainder prudently determining to wait till it was found that the change was beneficial.

The vessel was in charge of Lieutenant Kingston, Royal Navy; and, by his judicious treatment, it appears no sickness had arisen among the passengers.

Lieutenant Kingston brought me a despatch from Mr. Carr, the acting governor in the room of Sir John Jeremie, whose lamented death he announced. He stated that he had appointed a Captain Taylor, of one of the regiments in garrison, to be emigration agent, and has raised the spirits of the colonists here by his disposition to favour emigration from Sierra Leone if it be proved of advantage to the inhabitants of that settlement.

The vessel sent from hence with despatches to the Governor of Sierra Leone did not remain there long enough to enable the previous formalities to pass for the departure of emigrants, and therefore proceeded to Madeira, whence she is expected to bring many Portuguese ready to emigrate to this colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

— No. 15. —

(No. 60.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell.*

No. 15. Governor Light to Lord John Russell. 1 June 1841.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 1 June 1841.

I TAKE advantage of a sailing vessel, which leaves this to-day for England, to forward to your Lordship an account of my subsequent arrangements with regard to the emigrants from Sierra Leone, whose arrival I announced in despatch No. 59, date May 25th.

I had the honour of stating that the proportion of women was not in accordance with the ordinance; the men wishing to ascertain the nature of the country before they brought their wives and families.

It appears that the agents of Trinidad and Jamaica circulated reports of this colony, which were believed by many who had put down their names for emigration, afterwards withdrawn, from suspicions being excited unfavourable to British Guiana. I can scarcely credit that the principals were guilty of wilful falsehood, but it was believed that snow, ice, and pestilence would destroy those who came here; and this ended by the embarkation of half a dozen men from the different villages in the neighbourhood of the chief town of Sierra Leone, who agreed to embark, with the emigrants, on condition of being conveyed back to give their friends a true account of British Guiana.

The anxiety to obtain the service of the emigrants by the proprietors here, and the attempts made to induce the choice of one estate more than another, rendered it necessary for me to guard against the first location being on spots either unhealthy or not in the immediate vicinity of the stipendiary magistrates.

I therefore addressed a minute to the members of the Court of Policy, whom I had allowed provisionally as a committee on affairs connected with emigration, and a selection of the most healthy estates was cheerfully acquiesced in and sent to me; from these I chose those named in document No. 2.

I went the same day on board the emigrant ship, accompanied by the agent-general, and assembling the emigrants, addressed myself to the head-men, and desired the agent-general to read to them the recommendation of the locations named, stating, at the same time, that they were free to choose for themselves, and that they need not stay one hour on any estate, if, on reaching it, they chose to go elsewhere. I directed that they should choose their own companions, and settle amongst themselves who would go together. I told them that the stipendiary magistrates would take care they should be properly protected against ill-treatment, and bid them apply immediately for redress, if any were required. I recommended them by no means to attempt double wages, or to exert themselves in extra labour for at least three months after their arrival. There was not the least hesitation to adopt my advice, and the following morning they were disembarked and taken to the different estates as herewith reported.

Amongst the party were 25 Kroomen, who were not located on estates; they were disembarked, lodged and boarded for a day or two in the town, when they were soon hired as boatmen, under advice of the agent-general, by agents of different estates.

Though separated in squads of 10, 15, and 20, yet the labourers are settled on estates within a short distance of each other, and from the reports of the stipendiary magistrates and the agent-general, are so highly satisfied that they have determined to send for their wives and families.

The

The Superior, which brought the emigrants from Sierra Leone, has been chartered to return there; she will sail in a day or two.

The agent for Madeira writes, that from the reports of the Portuguese emigrants, who had returned from hence to that island, with large earnings, there has been a great desire in the labouring population to come here; that he has 2,000 names for embarkation by the first opportunity, and that there is such an overflowing, from abundance of unemployed hands, almost in a state of starvation, that many thousands will flock willingly to such a colony as this, where labour is so well compensated.

I am happy to say that, with the exception of five of the Africans of the captured slaver, the Dous de Fevereiro, who died after landing, the remainder are in perfect health; they have remained at the charge of the colony for the last three weeks in the building prepared for them at New Amsterdam, with ample provision for their wants, and full liberty to look about them.

The collector of Her Majesty having taken charge of the price, I am waiting to have the Africans formally delivered to me. I shall then locate them with the same precautions as have been used for the emigrants from Sierra Leone. When this takes place, I shall submit my arrangements for your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosures in No. 15.

(No. 1.)

MEMORANDUM for the Committee of Immigration.

THE consideration which will principally govern my recommendation to the people who have arrived from Sierra Leone to locate themselves, will be:—

1st. The healthiness of the estate; and under this head I give a decided preference to the sea coasts of the colony.

2d. The nearness of the estate to some place of worship according to the form to which the people have been accustomed.

3d. Regard being had to the accommodation afforded on the estate, it is desirable to distribute the people as extensively as possible over the colony, in order that any vicious or superstitious practices to which they may be addicted may not be perpetuated by their being kept congregated together.

I think 20 a sufficiently large number on any one estate.

Keeping the above considerations in mind, I request the committee to suggest, for my approval, a list of estates which they consider eligible locations for me to recommend to the Africans now on board the Superior.

(True copy.) (signed) *Henry Light.*

(signed) *James Hackett*, Agent-General.

EXTRACT Minute from the Proceedings of the Immigration Committee, Tuesday, the 25th May 1841.

THE Committee then agreed to recommend to the Governor the following estates as eligible locations for the labourers on board the Superior:—

Plantation Enmore,	on the east sea coast of Demerara.	
Plantation Turkeyen	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Greenfield	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Le Resouvenir	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Helena	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Dochfour	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Annandale	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Lima	west sea coast of Essequibo.	
Plantation Reliance	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Land of Plenty	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Hoff Van Amich	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Aberdeen	ditto - -	ditto.
Plantation Walton Hall	ditto - -	ditto.

(True extract.)

(signed) *James Hackett*, Agent-general.

(No. 2.)

MEMORANDUM.

HAVING given my best attention to the Africans now on board the Superior, and after having received the advice of the Immigration Committee, I strongly recommend the labourers to locate themselves on the following estates, and in the following numbers:—

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

Plantation Enmore,	on the east sea coast of Demerara	20
Plantation Turkeyen	ditto - - ditto	10
Plantation Greenfield	ditto - - ditto	15
Plantation Le Resouvenir	ditto - - ditto	15
Plantation Helena	ditto - - ditto	20
Plantation Dochfour	ditto - - ditto	10
Plantation Annandale	ditto - - ditto	20
Plantation Lima,	west sea coast of Essequibo	20
Plantation Reliance	ditto - - ditto	20
Plantation Land of Plenty	ditto - - ditto	20
Plantation Hoff Van Amich	ditto - - ditto	10
Plantation Aberdeen	ditto - - ditto	10
Plantation Walton Hall	ditto - - ditto	10

The labourers will remain unindentured, make their own bargains for daily, weekly, or monthly work; and after giving the estates above mentioned a fair trial, if dissatisfied, they are of course free agents, and may remove themselves to any part of the colony in which they may think they will be better off.

The immigration agent-general is to consider the numbers affixed to the estates merely as guides to him in reference to the proportion of labourers to be placed on the several estates; the absolute number must be determined by the relationship existing between the parties; and where no relationship exists, then by the mutual consent of the parties.

The agent will notify this recommended distribution to the town attorneys of the estates; and if the recommendation be acquiesced in by the labourers, they may at once be landed, housed, and provided for at the residences of the said attorneys, or in such other suitable places of accommodation as they may provide, until an opportunity offers for conveying them into the country.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

25 May 1841.

(True copy.)

(signed) *James Hackett*, Agent-general.

(No. 3.)

REPORT of the Agent-General for Immigration, on the arrival of the Ship Superior, from *Sierra Leone*, with 199 Free Labourers.

Sir, Immigration Office, 29 May 1841.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

On Monday last, the 24th instant, arrived the ship Superior, 412 tons, from London *viâ* Sierra Leone, where having remained 24 days, and taken on board 199 free emigrant labourers, reached here, after a passage of 25 days, all well.

I immediately proceeded on board the vessel and inspected, in person, between decks, the accommodations prepared for the passengers, the quality of food and water provided for their use, and examined individually every immigrant on board; and it affords me great satisfaction, in the discharge of this part of my duty, to be able to inform his Excellency, that nothing could exceed the cleanliness and good order which everywhere prevailed, and which reflect much credit on Mr. Kingston, the superintendent on board, and Mr. Clarke, the surgeon of the vessel.

The immigrants appeared all in excellent health and spirits, the passage having been performed without any death or casualty; not even (as the doctor reported) a single case of sickness during the time.

In carrying into effect the instructions conveyed to me by his Excellency's memorandum (Copy attached, No. 1; Extract Minute attached), founded upon the recommendation of the Immigration Committee, with reference to the allocation of these people, every consideration and acquiescence have been accorded to their wishes and inclinations.

In no instance have I permitted any separation of families, ties of relationship, or (when made known to me by the parties) even friendship contracted in their own country, to be broken or interfered with. And the more effectually to accomplish this object, so conducive to their future contentment and happiness, their relative positions towards each other, in their present distribution, have been made as analogous to their former locations at Sierra Leone as possible; so that in most instances the same children will continue to receive instruction together, and the same families to enjoy an unbroken intercourse, and to meet at their respective places of worship on Sundays.

I am sure it will afford his Excellency great satisfaction to know that the kind and impressive manner in which he addressed these people on board the vessel, has inspired them with redoubled confidence, and that they have departed for their respective destinations not only in high spirits, but convinced that his Excellency's recommendation to them to accept of those healthy situations in the first instance where good accommodation had been provided for them, was wholly for their own advantage and that of their families. Inseparable from this feeling of reliance on his Excellency's word, was that of the obvious consciousness of independence with which they went forward, from the assurances given them; at the same time, that although such was his Excellency's advice regarding their immediate

immediate location, yet as they were all free men, unindentured, and at liberty to work where and for whom they pleased, they might quit their locations for any other which they might think more advantageous to them, even on the following day, should they think fit to do so. With regard to the disparity between the sexes, although considerable as relates to this body of immigrants, being 149 males to 50 females, it is, I humbly conceive, in a great measure satisfactorily explained by the people themselves, with whom I have particularly conferred on the subject, and from the reasons adduced by them, it can hardly be doubted (should the means continue to be afforded) that such disparity would speedily be amended.

They state, in explanation of so many men having come without their wives and families, that they preferred leaving them with their friends at home, rather than hazard the uncertainty and danger of bringing them to a strange country of which they themselves knew nothing but by hearsay. That they wished to be convinced from personal knowledge and observation of this country, that the condition of those dependent on them would be bettered, before they could venture on so decided a step as their actual removal; and that, as the means of reporting to Sierra Leone, by the return of their representatives (or headmen), had been promised them, they awaited that opportunity of communicating with their families and friends as to their following them here by coming vessels or not.

This explanation does not apply to the Kroomen, who never do bring their wives from home; there being 23 of this class, the majority of males would consequently be reduced, that number making it only 76.

I have not failed to convey his Excellency's desire, and to impress upon the minds of those gentlemen under whose protection and care these people have been respectively placed, the necessity of rendering them in every way comfortable—preventing over exertion at work, or too much exposure to the sun, &c. And it is but just to say that every assurance of such indulgences have been given.

I fear I have extended this report beyond what under ordinary circumstances might be considered necessary. The subject, however, I feel to be one of deep importance, and of such interest to all classes of this community, indeed to humanity itself, that any prolixity I may be betrayed into, has been not only from the sympathies which the event has excited, but from a desire to afford his Excellency the fullest information, and to gratify that wish which he has so deeply evinced in the protection and welfare of those people.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c. &c. (signed) *James Hackett*, Agent-General.

NOMINAL List of Africans by the Superior from *Sierra Leone*, and Estates upon which they have been located.

West Sea Coast of Essequibo.

Plantation Lima.
From the District of Wilberforce:

Thomas Cole.
Mary Cole.
Andrew Cole.
Anna Cole.
John Ross.
Jim Hook.
Betsy Hook.
George Hook.
James John, 1st.
Nancy John.
James John, 2d.
Sally John.
James Johnstone.
Fanny Johnstone.
James Peter.
Samuel M'Aulay.
James Carew.

Peter Rose, Esq. Proprietor.

Plantation Reliance.
From the District of Wilberforce:

Thomas Pirie.
Samuel George.
Moses Nugent.
John Williams.
Charles Bright.
John Kennedy.
Walter Carew.
Nancy Carew.
John Carew.
Sally Carew.
William Miller.
Joseph Johnstone.
Joseph John.
George Wilson.

Plantation Hoff Van Amich.

James Moore.
Thomas Howard.
Fanny Howard.
Solomon Howard.
Maria Howard.
James Nutt.
John Martin.
David Williams.

Messrs. Murray, Brothers & Co. Proprietors.

Plantation Walton Hall.

Joe Davis.
Maria Davis.
James Cole.
Susanna Cole.
Peter Cole.
Samuel Coker.
Nancy Coker.
James Pratt.

Honourable Mrs. Colonel Phipps, Proprietress.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

Plantation Land of Plenty.

From the adjacent districts of Gloster and Regent Town, Africa:

Andrew John, Thomas Jordan, Samuel John Jordan, } Family.
John Pratt, Sarah Pratt, Nancy Pratt, } Family.
Thomas Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Sarah Wilson, Anna Wilson, } Family.
Peter Johnstone, Sarah Johnstone, Joseph Johnstone, Peter Johnstone, } Family.
Andrew Canny.
John Thomas.
Anna Thomas.

The Rev. Archdeacon Austin, Proprietor.

Plantation Aberdeen.

From Gloster and Regent Town:

Pector Doctor, Anna Doctor, Thomas Raffle, Mary Raffle, John Thompson, Nancy Thompson, Samuel Thompson, James Thompson, John Thompson, Moses Thompson, Joseph Thompson, William Roffell, } Family.

Gardiner Austen, Esq. Proprietor.

East Sea Coast of Demerara.

Plantation Le Resouvenir.

From Free Town, Africa:

Charles Turner.
Joseph May.
Pompey Rutledge.
Margaret Rutledge.
John Hosling.
George Baily.
Thomas Peer.
James Barker.
Thomas Bell.
Thomas Williams.
Walter Grace.

Messrs. M'Imoy & Sandback, Proprietors.

Plantation Helena.

From Free Town:

John Copley.
Elizabeth Copley.
Patrick Price.
Christian Price.
Samuel M'Aulay.
James Butchen.
Priscilla Butchen.
Thomas Scott.
James Watt.
John Thomas.
Samuel Williams.
John Thomas.
Thomas Brown.
Thomas Johnstone.
Tom Williams.
Samuel Hamden.

William Fraser, Esq. Proprietor.

Plantation Enmore.

From Free Town, Africa:

Andrew Pratt, Mary Pratt, Andrew Pratt, Elizabeth Pratt, Thomas Pratt, } Family.
John Clarke.
Peggy Clarke.
William Leigh.
John Davis.
William Thomas.
John Thomas.
Thomas Coker.
John Williams.
Samuel Kibbiss.
William King.
Samuel George.
William Coker.

Thomas & Henry Porter, Proprietors.

Plantation Greenfield.

From Free Town:

John Bull, Nancy Bull, Thomas Bull, } Family.
Davy John, Betsy John, Phebe John, Charles John, Fanny John, } Family.
Andrew Peter.
Charles Butcher.
George Butcher.
Jack Long.
Hannah Long.

Messrs. Glen & Co., Proprietors.

Plantation Turkeyen.

From Waterloo District:

William Young.
Mary Young.
Mary Young.
Anna Young.
John M'Aulay.
George Pratt.
Charles Pratt.
Peggy Pratt.
Moses Pratt.
Andrew Hamilton.
William Gurner.

Plantation Annandale.

From Goodrich District:

William Dove,
Phœbe Dove,
William Dove,
Thomas Dove,
Jim Dove,
Martha Dove,
} Family.

Andrew Martin.
William Home.
William Bull.
John Moore.
Nancy Moore.
William Peters.

John Carroll,
Judy Carroll,
Sally Carroll,
Judy Carroll,
} Family.

John Stewart, Esq. M. P. Proprietor.

Plantation Dochfour.

John Day.
Eliza Day.
John Williams.
Thomas Taylor.
Robert Edwards.

List of Kroomen who preferred not living on any particular Estate.

Kingson.
Tom Walker.
Jack Passer.
Big Gum.
Peter Jumbo.
Thomas Nimmey.
John Grey.
Bottle Beer.
Jim George.
Salt Water.
Seargeant.
George Andrews.
Tom Nimmey.
Tom Freeman.
Tom Toby.
John Davis.
Sea Breeze.
Tom Lee.
Yellow Will.
Peter Warman.
Jim Freeman.
Tom Brown.

The above being principally boatmen, and very intelligent and active people, were all readily engaged to work on board the steamers and drohergs belonging to estates, at a high rate of wages, none of them receiving less than at the rate of 10 dollars per month, besides houses, food, &c.

Names of Headmen who are to return in the Superior to Sierra Leone to report.

Charles Turner, for Free Town.
Samuel Young, for Regent Town.
Thomas Cole, for Wilberforce.
Charles Pratt, for Waterloo.
William Home, for Goodrich.
Thomas Freeman, for Kroo Town.

(signed) *James Hackett*, Agent-general.

— No. 16. —

(No. 220.)

No. 16.
Lord John Russell to Governor Light.
19 July 1841.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor *Light*.

Sir, Downing-street, 19 July 1841.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 25th May and 1st June, Nos. 59 and 60, reporting the arrival of 200 African labourers from Sierra Leone; and I have to convey to you my approval of the steps which you had taken for ensuring their location on such estates as you considered most likely to be conducive to their health and personal comforts.

I rely, however, on the promise that the women, whom you state to have been left behind until the men could ascertain the nature of the country, should be sent for, and that the proportion of females to males laid down by the Ordinance should be adhered to.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

Governor Light,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

No. 17. Governor Light to Lord John Russell, 9 June 1841.

— No. 17. —

(No. 66.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 9 June 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter I wrote to the officer administering the government of Sierra Leone, by the Superior, which left this on the 7th instant, chartered to convey emigrants from Sierra Leone to this province.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 17.

Sir, Government House, Demerara, 6 June 1841.

Encl. in No. 17.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch delivered to me by Lieutenant Kingston, of the Superior, on the arrival of that vessel here on the 24th ultimo.

While regretting the lamented death of Sir John Jeremie, I have to congratulate you on the assumption of a government which now attracts so much interest at home, and whence from its own progress in civilisation yet may arise such new sources of wealth to the mother country, while it will probably contribute much to the prosperity of the West Indies, without interference, I trust, with the welfare of the tribes of Africans who seek the protection of Great Britain.

It will be satisfactory to your Excellency to know that the emigrants from Sierra Leone reached this colony in 24 days, and all were in perfect health.

I obtained a list of the most healthy estates in the colony, and went on board the Superior, on the 25th May, with the agent-general, and having assembled the emigrants, addressed myself to the headmen, and ordered the agent-general to read my recommendation of the estates to them, stating at the same time that they were fully at liberty to choose for themselves, and to remove immediately from the estates recommended, if they thought right to do so, on arrival there; but I observed to them, that in relying on me, they would escape the possibility of being induced to locate themselves on spots which perhaps did not offer such advantages as those I recommended.

I named so many for each estate, in squads of 10, 15, and 20, desiring the emigrants to choose amongst themselves who should go together. I assured them of the protection of the stipendiary magistrates, to whom in all cases for redress they were to apply.

They willingly adopted my recommendation, and were disembarked the following morning, and conveyed in the estates' schooners to their locations.

Having previously obtained a list from every estate in the colony, of the means of accommodation for labourers each estate possessed, I knew where to place the emigrants, selecting the most healthy spots, carefully avoiding distance from churches, chapels, schools, and magistrates, and at the same time I placed the different squads within such reasonable contiguity of each other, that they might always in the course of four or five hours have communication with each other, or with their friends; begging you to bear in mind that they were pretty nearly divided between the sea-coast of Essequibo county, called the Arabian Coast, and the eastern coast of Demerara, both considered as the healthiest districts in the province.

The reports of the agent-general and the stipendiary magistrates up to this date, state that the emigrants are highly satisfied, and those who have left their families at Sierra Leone are desirous of having them here.

The Kroomen, 25 in number, were not included in the locations, but were landed, boarded and lodged liberally for two days in town, when they were engaged under the recommendation of the agent-general, as boatmen on different estates, at the rate of 10 and 12 dollars per month, with a daily proportion of salt fish and plantains.

I trust these details will satisfy you that the emigrants are well protected, and may reap largely by the advantages this province offers to industry.

I have to express my perfect approval of Captain Taylor as agent for Sierra Leone, with the salary you have considered necessary. He will communicate with the agent-general on all subjects connected with emigration, and I shall be happy to support him on every subject connected with his office.

If I am not too late, I should suggest, it would be premature in Captain Taylor to leave the army entirely, that is, to sell out; for, on the delicate subject of emigration from Africa, though at present permitted, yet, if the sons of Africa can be equally well off in their own quarter of the world, will the emigration from Sierra Leone continue to be the policy of Great Britain?

I understand a heavy charge is made for passports at Sierra Leone; if so, I beg to draw your attention to a despatch I received from Lord John Russell, recommending the abolition of all fees on passports to labourers from this colony, desirous of quitting their country, which recommendation has been strictly adhered to; it will facilitate the progress of emigration, if such fees at Sierra Leone can be remitted.

In conclusion, I beg to assure your Excellency that the emigrants who may choose to seek their fortunes here, have, with prudence, as great a prospect of worldly happiness here

as

as in any part of the world, and are in all cases of dispute between labourers and employers, entirely under the arbitration of an efficient summary stipendiary jurisprudence, accountable to the executive alone.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

His Excellency administering the Government of Sierra Leone.

— No. 18. —

(No. 131.)

No. 18. Governor Light to Lord John Russell. 7 October 1841.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 7 October 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival from Sierra Leone, on the 22d ult., of 225 emigrants in the ship Superior, chartered here, and sent to the above-named colony.

The Superior was 36 days on her passage from Sierra Leone; the number of emigrants embarked 226, therefore one death occurred; and it appears from the letter of the agent-general, copy of which is herewith annexed, that the deceased was in a bad state of health, and was allowed to embark from humane motives.

The emigrants, though recommended to locate themselves on estates, according to my selection, as the healthiest parts of the colony, and where I had heard of the best accommodation, appear to have been guided by their friends to other places. No inconvenience has arisen from this, and they are thus made sensible of their full freedom of choice.

I have thought it right to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter from the agent at Sierra Leone to the agent-general, by which your Lordship will perceive that this colony has every prospect of a large influx of labourers from Sierra Leone. The difficulty will be to obtain regularly an equal portion of the sexes, which, as by the annexed return, is not according to the terms of the Emigration Ordinance.

It is more than probable that as confidence increases as to the advantages of this colony, the disproportion will decrease; it may then be unnecessary to urge the strict enforcement of the law.

Mr. Taylor alludes to the misconduct of some of the delegates sent back from hence to Sierra Leone. This is an accident which will be easily guarded against; the nature of this country is now pretty generally known at Sierra Leone, and therefore it will be unnecessary to send delegates from hence.

A ship has been chartered at Berbice to proceed to Sierra Leone, and I have no doubt will be successful in obtaining emigrants. It is evident the natives of Africa are the most fitted for this country; little or no sickness has occurred amongst those who have lately arrived here, while great sickness, and on some estates great mortality, have occurred amongst the Portuguese from Madeira.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosures in No. 18.

Sir, Sierra Leone, 12 August 1841.

Encl. in No. 18.

ACCOMPANYING the emigrants in the ship Superior, are the six delegates who returned from Demerara in that ship. Whilst they have been here I have given them the means of subsistence at the rate of 1 *s.* per day. This sum was by no means adequate to their wishes; but as my object throughout has been to do these people strict justice, and yet go upon as economical a plan as I could, I inquired from several people in their own station of life, and found that that sum was quite sufficient.

One of these men, named William Hoare, applied to me, through Captain Dinning, for the sum of 10 dollars; a gratuity which he stated was given to the other men, but which he embarked without receiving, and which I advanced.

I would strongly urge upon the authorities at British Guiana the necessity of not sending these men back as delegates; they are not required, and I found them quite inefficient and totally useless, with the exception of Tom Freeman, the head Krooman, who has been most active.

One of the men is called Thomas Cole; I have had every reason to be much dissatisfied with his conduct. He has appeared several times before me in a state of intoxication, and has been the source of much annoyance and complaint, even from the authorities here. Owing to his misconduct I have not advanced him anything, but I have been well aware that he has had the means of subsistence.

One man came in the Superior, calling himself a delegate; but as he was not recognised by the headman, Charles Turner, I have refused to hold any communication with him.

Were I to suggest a plan to the authorities at British Guiana, it would be, send back either Tom Freeman or the head Krooman. I send Charles Walker and the headman of the liberated Africans, Charles B. Christian. It would inspire the people here with confidence; and I believe them to be intelligent, sober, and active.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

A native of Sierra Leone, by name John Emanuel, who came here with Mr. Dunlop, with high testimonials from members of the honourable the Court of Policy, has been very active in collecting emigrants; he has laboured under much sickness, but I have had every reason to be satisfied with him since his recovery. Being in absolute want of money, he showed me his credentials, and also a paper signed by the four members of the honourable the Court of Policy, comprising the committee for promoting immigration into British Guiana, allowing him a salary of 35 dollars a month; and upon this I have advanced him altogether the sum of 16*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* He does not appear willing to return to the West Indies at present; but beyond the nine months specified in the paper I shall not advance him any money, nor should I have done so now until I received instructions, had he not been in a state of utter destitution.

I have found it also necessary to draw on Messrs. M'Garel & Co. (as you will see by the accompanying document) for 23*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, the sum required for the passports for the emigrants by Government, as well as for the other items contained in that amount. I have applied to Messrs. Hiddle & Co., the consignees of the ship Superior, to cash the bills I required, and they have agreed to do so. I trust my having advanced money for the passports will meet with approval, as it is the plan adopted by all the other West India emigration agents. The people sell all they have from the moment they receive their tickets, and have barely the means of subsistence until they go on board, and are, therefore, quite unable to afford to pay the required 2*s.* 6*d.* The clothes sent are as much or more than will be required, and the consignees have informed me that they receive directions to supply the immigrants with mats.

Should the authorities not think it necessary to send back any delegates, I am very sanguine as to the result of the next voyage. The emigrants I have embarked, I believe, will be found, for the greatest part, strong healthy labourers. It is true that other ships are freighting, or about to be freighted, for the other West India colonies; but the satisfactory accounts received from the emigrants at Demerara, and the inducements held out in your despatch by his Excellency Governor Light, particularly to carpenters, have caused hundreds to apply to emigrate whom I could not send by this vessel.

I now can only trust that my exertions will meet with the approval of the authorities at British Guiana.

I have, &c.

James Hackett, Esq.
&c. &c.

(signed) *Richard Taylor,*
Immigration Agent of British Guiana.

Sir, Immigration Office, 23 September 1841.

I HAVE the honour to announce, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the arrival yesterday morning of the ship Superior, from Sierra Leone, with 225 liberated Africans on board; all well.

The Superior had a passage of 36 days, the only casualty occurring during the time being the death of one man, whom, upon investigation, it appears was in a bad state of health when he embarked, which he was only allowed to do to gratify a wish he had to accompany some of his relatives hither, and in the hope that the voyage might tend to his recovery. All the others arrived in the most excellent health, high spirits, and in regard to appearance, intelligence, and civilisation, I think are much superior to this vessel's last party.

I had the ship placed in quarantine, to prevent interference or confusion on board, until I had gone through the muster-roll and personally inspected every individual of the party; after which I called up all the principal people and the headmen, and addressed them in the name of the Governor, who, I informed them, was out of town, or they would have been welcomed in person by his Excellency himself, but that I was prepared to convey to them his Excellency's recommendation and advice regarding their future locations, as being not only considered the most healthy, but better provided with accommodations, &c. I then read his Excellency's memorandum, naming the various estates on which it was proposed they should be advised to go. They appeared very much gratified, and thanked the Governor for his kindness; but it was evident that the headmen or delegates who have returned with them, had already made a different disposition in favour of the estates on which they had themselves been located, and the consequence has been that the plantations Lima, Turkeyen, La Resouvenir, Lusignan, and Paradise, have each got a portion, and the remainder (through the exertions of parties who came on board after the yellow flag was taken down) were distributed among the following estates, viz. Ogle, Belair, Peter's Hall, and Houston.

I regret that I have not been more successful in giving effect to his Excellency's intentions, as contemplated by the memorandum, in the allotment and location of these people; but more than urge his Excellency's advice to them I could not do, and they have pleased themselves.

I enclose the despatches received from Captain Taylor, at Sierra Leone, which appear very satisfactory.

The accounts brought by this ship hold out the most favourable prospects for British Guiana, as regards emigration from Sierra Leone, the Africans there giving a decided preference to this colony over either Jamaica or Trinidad; these latter places, they say, being much too far away for them.

Could

Could the Superior have accommodated 1,000 people, the captain says he could have got them with ease.

I had nearly forgot to mention the important fact that of the number now come, about 60 are Kroomen, several of whom have brought their wives, and many more of the same class are waiting to follow.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James Hackett,*
Agent-general for Immigration.

Note.—The Kroomen are not yet located, but I think will be to-day.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

Immigration Office, Demerara, 10 October 1841.

RETURN of EMIGRANTS arrived per ship Superior, from *Sierra Leone.*

DATE of ARRIVAL.	Vessel's Name.	Master.	From	Adults.		Children under 14 Years.		Total.		GRAND TOTAL.	Remarks.
				Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
1841: September 23 - -	Ship Superior -	Dinning -	SierraLeone	144	49	18	14	162	63	225	

Herbert C. Southey,
Acting Agent-general for Immigration.

His Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 19. —

(No. 77.)

No. 19. Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell. 3 August 1841.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Trinidad, 3 August 1841.

I PERCEIVE in your Lordship's despatch to Sir John Jeremie, No. 24, dated the 20th March last, on the subject of emigration, that although your Lordship considers it advisable that he should chiefly regulate himself by the laws of those colonies to which the emigrants are to proceed, yet that you do not prescribe this as an inflexible rule: I should trust, therefore, that your Lordship would be pleased to extend to this colony the indulgence granted to the Legislature of Jamaica, that the number of female emigrants, as regards the males, should be in the proportion of one-third.

I do not recommend that this ratio should be observed with respect to the emigrants from the West India colonies, but would confine it principally to the coast of Africa and America.

A strong reason for advising it in the former case is, that on the late arrival of emigrants from Sierra Leone, the Kroomen, on being told previous to their embarkation, that their passages would not be paid for by the Government unless an equal number of females accompanied them, actually persuaded women of the very lowest character, and not of their own tribe, to embark with them.

As regards the labourers from America, who generally wish to emigrate in families, very great difficulties present themselves on account of the proportion of males exceeding the number allowed by our ordinance.

If your Lordship should be pleased to give to this island the same advantages that Jamaica enjoys by the regulation as to the proportion of the sexes, I should solicit that the Order in Council relative to immigration into Trinidad may be so far altered as to meet the request I have made.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Macleod,*
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

— No. 20. —

(No. 111.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod.*

Sir, Downing-street, 9 October 1841.

No. 20. Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod. 9 October 1841.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 77, of the 3d August, recommending that the island of Trinidad should be placed on the same footing as Jamaica, in regard to the proportion of sexes to be maintained in the introduction of emigrants into the colony, viz. that the number of female emigrants as regards the males should be in the proportion of one-third.

I have the honour to transmit to you an Order of Her Majesty in Council, modifying to this extent the previous Order of the 30th September 1839.

Order in Council, 6 Oct. *vide* p. 635.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Stanley.*

— No. 21. —

No. 21. Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell. 17 August 1841.

(No. 82.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Trinidad, 17 August 1841.

I HAD the honour, on the 28th May last, to inform your Lordship that I had appointed Mr. Hamilton emigration agent for this island at Sierra Leone; and I at the same time stated, that I adopted the terms offered by that gentleman, in his notice to persons desirous of emigrating to Trinidad.

Circumstances have since arisen that have caused a considerable alteration in the terms above mentioned, and those now offered are house and provision grounds, with from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.* sterling for each task; the allowances of salt fish, flour, spirits, &c., having been discontinued.

As the communication with the agent may not be so certain, I should wish the earliest intimation of these alterations to be given to the authorities at Sierra Leone, in order that persons may not emigrate to Trinidad under false expectations.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod,* Lieut.-Governor.

— No. 22. —

No. 22. Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell. 28 August 1841.

(No. 86.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *John Russell.*

My Lord, Trinidad, 28 August 1841.

I RECEIVED from your Lordship a despatch, No. 27, of the 9th June 1840, directing me to forward any information relative to the advantages held out by the island of Trinidad to emigrants from Sierra Leone, to which your Lordship will have received my answer under date the 21st July last year.

For Despatch, 9 June, *vide* p. 553. Desp. 21 July, p. 555.

By the last packet I informed your Lordship that certain alterations had taken place in the terms offered to labourers, and at the same time I requested that the proper authorities of Sierra Leone should be made acquainted with these changes.

Upon further consideration, and however much the welfare of this colony must depend on obtaining a large body of immigrants, I cannot consent to be thought for one moment to hold out advantages that may not be realized.

Your Lordship is aware that a certain number of labourers arrived here from Sierra Leone. They brought with them a printed paper, signed by Mr. Hamilton, the emigration agent, setting forth the advantages to be derived by emigrating to Trinidad. These terms, as I have acquainted your Lordship, have been altered by the curtailment of all allowances, of which these people naturally complain.

It will be evident that the rate of wages must vary according to the market for produce; and although this island will always be capable of giving at the highest rate, yet, in the unsettled state of the sugar duties, it is impossible to foresee to what further extent reductions may take place.

I would therefore request permission to revise that part of my letter to your Lordship, wherein I name a particular sum as wages; and to amend it by stating that to be the amount at present given; but, as I have already observed, although this island will always give the highest rate of wages, yet persons coming here must be subject to the vicissitudes in the market prices of colonial produce.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod,* Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 23.
Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod.
18 Nov. 1841.

— No. 23. —

(No. 17.)

COPY of DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Lieutenant-governor Sir *Henry Macleod.*

Sir, Downing-street, 18 November 1841.

I HAVE received your despatches, Nos. 82 and 86, of the 17th and 28th August: the former reporting that circumstances had rendered it necessary to deviate considerably from the terms originally held out to immigrants proceeding from Sierra Leone to Trinidad; the latter, that owing to the fluctuations in the value of labour in that island, it will be impracticable to give any guarantee as to the rate of wages to be received by immigrants on their arrival in the colony. *15th Nov.*

I regret that so soon after the establishment of emigration to the West Indies from Sierra Leone, it should have been found necessary, in the case of Trinidad, to depart from the original terms held out to the immigrants, and that the impossibility of defining the rate of wages to be received by them had not been foreseen from the beginning. This want of greater precaution is unfortunate, and may throw great discredit on the emigration.

You have not stated what will be the condition of those labourers who may have gone from Sierra Leone on the faith of the original terms; that is, all who shall have embarked previous to the notice respecting the alteration of the terms reaching Sierra Leone.

With respect to those labourers, any such reductions must be regarded as a breach of faith; and I must look to you to enforce the fulfilment, in their case, of the original terms, or to ensure to them advantages equivalent to those on the faith of which they left Sierra Leone.

I transmit to you the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the officer administering the government of Sierra Leone, stating the course to be taken in future in issuing notices for the information of those who may be desirous of emigrating. *11th Nov.*

It will be desirable that you should cause periodical returns of the rate of wages in Trinidad, to be transmitted to the agent in Sierra Leone, acting on behalf of the island, which he may promulgate as received from time to time.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 23.

(No. 15.)

Encl. in No. 23.
Sir H. Macleod, No. 86—28th Aug. 1841.

Sir, Downing-street, 11 November 1841.

REFERRING to my despatch, No. 13, of the 10th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a further communication which has been received from the Governor of Trinidad, stating the reasons which will render it impossible to fulfil the expectations held out by Mr. Hamilton to those labourers whom he has assisted in emigrating to Trinidad.

You will instruct Mr. Hamilton and the agents of other West Indian colonies which import emigrants from Sierra Leone, that they must hold themselves forbidden from entering into any specific engagement or promise as to the future rate of wages to be assigned to those persons; and that they are required to confine themselves to an exact and unexaggerated statement of the rate of wages which may have prevailed at the latest period for which they may be in possession of authentic accounts.

You will further take measures on your part for causing every emigrant from the colony to be informed that the rate of wages in the West Indies is liable to fluctuations which it is impossible to calculate beforehand; and that he must take his chance of such fluctuations, without any guarantee against the depreciation of the value of his labour.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

Officer administering Government of
Sierra Leone.

— No. 24. —

(No. 37.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *H. Macleod* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Trinidad, 27 January 1842.

No. 24
Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell.
27 January 1842.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch, dated the 18th November, acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 17th and 28th August last, relating to the reduction in the rate of wages to labourers in this colony, and transmitting the copy of one addressed to the officer administering the government at Sierra Leone, conveying your Lordship's instructions in consequence.

I can assure your Lordship that no one has considered this sudden reduction, as fraught with danger to the continuance of emigration from Sierra Leone, more than myself; but I apprehend it is as impossible to fix a permanent rate of wages in the West Indies as in any other country; perhaps more so, when it is considered that the staple produce combines both agriculture and manufacture.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

Your Lordship remarks that I have not stated what will be the condition of those who have arrived from Sierra Leone on the faith of the original terms; and, further, that you look to me to enforce the fulfilment of them in their case.

Your Lordship is aware that no contracts made previous to their landing would have been binding; and in very few instances would the labourers enter into any agreement, preferring to work by the day, so as to take advantage of any increased offer from other parties.

Accordingly, and prior to any alteration in wages or allowances, they had generally availed themselves of this; and in the great competition for labour, few of these people are now to be found with the planters to whom they were originally engaged; hence both parties have become free agents; so that I really do not see how these proprietors can be held more responsible for any particular terms than the labourer for having left his service to engage where he thought more advantageous ones were offered.

Connected with this subject, a vessel has just arrived from Sierra Leone, but without immigrants. The only information I can collect, in the absence of any official intelligence of the cause of this unexpected failure, is that the agent for Trinidad had quitted Sierra Leone suddenly, a few days after his arrival; and that the people stated that no delegates from the original emigrants, as promised by that person, had been sent from the colony.

It is my intention immediately to visit the districts where these people are located, and to ascertain what promises upon this head were made to them, and to inquire personally into their present circumstances; the result of which I shall have the honour to report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod*, Lieut.-Governor.

— No. 25. —

(No. 50.)

No. 25. Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod. 22 March 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod*.

Sir, Downing-street, 22 March 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 37, of the 27th January, relative to the reduction in the rate of wages to labourers in Trinidad, who had emigrated from Sierra Leone on a representation as to wages, made to them by the agent for the government of Trinidad.

You observe that no contracts made previous to their landing would have been binding; and that in very few instances would the labourers enter into any agreement, preferring to work by the day, so as to take advantage of any increased offer from other parties.

This is not, however, a question of private agreements between labourers and their employers. I apprehend that if the wages which the authorized agent of the colonial government undertook that the emigrants should receive cannot be obtained, the colonial funds are pledged to restore the immigrant to the state in which he was found; that is, if he is dissatisfied with his condition on that account, to send him back to Sierra Leone.

I do not mean to assert that if the immigrant is incorrigibly idle he would be authorized to claim full wages for half or imperfect work; in such cases the governor cannot have an equitable jurisdiction, but he must also be the protector of the labourer. An honest, industrious immigrant, sent over by the government agent, and willing to perform a fair day's work for the stipulated wages, has a right to obtain them, or, in default, to be sent home free of expense.

The agent for the colony is responsible for the supply of fit emigrants; if, therefore, he sends to Trinidad such as are incapable of work, the blame for so doing must be thrown upon him.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Stanley*.

— No. 26. —

No. 26.

Sir H. Macleod. No. 82. 17 Aug. 1841. Vide p. 576. Do. No. 86. 28 Aug. Vide p. 576.

Despatch to Governor of Sierra Leone. No. 15. 11 Nov. Vide p. 577.

Ds., to Sir H. Macleod. No. 17. 18 Nov. Vide p. 577.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Governor *Light*.

Sir, Downing-street, 29 November 1841.

I TRANSMIT, for your information and guidance, the copy of a correspondence on the subject of the terms in which notices respecting the rate of wages in the West Indies are in future to be issued in Sierra Leone, for the information of parties who may be desirous of emigrating from that colony to the West Indies.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley*.

— No. 27. —

(No. 14.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 27. Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord Stanley. 29 Nov. 1841.

My Lord, Trinidad, 29 November 1841.

A DEPUTATION from the Agricultural and Immigration Society of this colony, which is composed of all the most respectable inhabitants, have waited on me for the purpose of submitting the propriety of purchasing a ship of sufficient size to run between this and Sierra Leone, for the conveyance of immigrants.

I called upon these gentlemen to furnish me with a statement of the expenses likely to be incurred, which I herewith enclose, and in which your Lordship will perceive that a comparison is made with the present mode of importing people from thence.

I would recommend this subject to your Lordship's favourable consideration; for although it might be rather more costly than the present system adopted, yet it would at once establish the desirable object of a direct intercourse, by which those who chose it might return to Africa, and thus give greater confidence to parties emigrating from thence to this colony, besides keeping the people at Sierra Leone aware of the true price of labour, which now varies so much.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod*, Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosures in No. 27.

Encl. in No. 27.

Trinidad, 2 November 1841.

AT a meeting of the "Immigration and Agricultural Society," held this day, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That application be made to his Excellency the Governor, to request his favourable consideration of the advantages likely to result by the purchase of a vessel by the Colonial Government, to be employed in the conveyance of immigrants from Sierra Leone to this colony, and thus open a constant intercommunication with Africa; a matter of great importance to this island, and so desirable, from its being recommended by Mr. Hamilton, the island agent at Sierra Leone, and found advantageous in promoting immigration to Demerara and Jamaica."

(signed) *Henry Scott*, Vice-Chairman.

MEMORANDUM.

The following gentlemen were deputed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, to present the resolution, viz.:—

The Hon. Henry Scott, *Chairman.*
P. A. Ganteaume.
John Losh.
Robert Dennistoun.
Henry Murphy.
The Hon. T. B. Darraeott.
Alexander Gray.
Robert Bushe.
George Ramsay.

Which I certify,

(signed) *John Losh*,
Secretary to the Immigration and Agricultural Society.

STATEMENT of the Cost, Fitting, and Sailing a North American New Copper-fastened Ship of 500 Tons.

First cost	*Dols.*	18,000
Coppering, fitting up berths, and cooking apparatus for 300 people, medicine-chest, arm-chest, gun, and 200 water-puncheons		5,040
First outlay, sterling 4,800 *l.*, or		23,040
Insurance, 10 per cent. per annum	£.	480
Wear and tear		480
Interest on capital at 5 per cent.		240
Portage bill—master 15 *l.*, surgeon 10 *l.*, mate 8 *l.*, carpenter 5 *l.*, 14 seamen at 50 *s.*		876
Stores and provisions for officers, surgeon, and crew		500
Passes at Sierra Leone at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling per head, 105 *l.*; clothing for the emigrants, 160 *l.*		265
Contingencies		200
Provisions calculated at three voyages per annum, 840 people		1,400
Sterling	£.	4,441

The

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

	Dols.
The present cost of importing 280 immigrants, three voyages per annum, 840 people at 30 dollars - - - - - -	25,200
Annual outlay for the same number by a colonial vessel - -	21,316
Balance in favour of the colonial vessel per annum - - -	3,884

It is thus calculated that, with reference to the 10 per cent. for wear and tear, the vessel and fitting will be a clear gain to the colony in three years, besides allowing interest on the capital; and a good vessel, not new, might be got at 10 per cent. per year of her age, under this calculation; the provisions and stores not used on one voyage, would come in also for the next; return passengers are not calculated.

(signed) *J. B. Darracott*, *John Losh*.
Henry Scott, *Rob. Dennistoun*.
5 November 1841. *Robert Bushe*, *P. P. Ganteaume*.

— No. 28. —

(No. 35.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Henry Macleod*.

No. 28. Lord Stanley to Lieut.-Governor Sir H. Macleod. 1 February 1842.

Sir, Downing-street, 1 February 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 14, of the 29th November, stating that a deputation from the Agricultural and Immigration Society of Trinidad had submitted to you the propriety of purchasing a ship of sufficient size to run between that colony and Sierra Leone, for the conveyance of immigrants; and you enclose a statement, furnished by them, of the expenses likely to be incurred for this service.

I am not indisposed to admit that it might be desirable to establish a direct communication between the colonies of Sierra Leone and Trinidad; but before any step of this kind is taken, I think it would be right to have a little further experience of the efficacy of the present system, and especially in regard to the probable supply of immigrants from Africa.

The statement furnished by the deputation of the Agricultural and Immigration Society is not sufficient to enable Her Majesty's Government to decide on the propriety of sanctioning their proposal for the purchase of a vessel by the Colonial Government. The question should be referred to a committee of the council of your government, for a detailed examination and report; and when their report has been submitted to the council, I shall be prepared to consider any recommendations on the subject which you may have to communicate to me from that body.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley*.

Lieut.-Governor Sir Henry Macleod,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 29. —

No. 29. Evidence given by Mr. Hamilton.

EVIDENCE given by Mr. *Hamilton*, Agent for Immigrants, before the Agricultural Committee, Trinidad.

PORT OF SPAIN.

Monday, 24th May 1841.

The Honourable *W. H. Burnley*, in the Chair.

W. Hamilton, esquire, called in; and Examined.

188. THE committee understand that you have recently arrived in this colony with a large number of liberated African labourers from Sierra Leone; be so good as to explain the circumstances under which this voyage was undertaken?—In consequence of a communication from the Governor of Sierra Leone to Lord John Russell, stating a desire on the part of the liberated Africans to emigrate to Trinidad, I was applied to by several gentlemen in London connected with the latter colony, who, having heard that I had resided upwards of three years in Sierra Leone, consulted with me as to the disposition of the people to emigrate, and, in such case, whether I would superintend the expedition. Being convinced of the practicability of the plan, and of the advantages it held out to Africa as well as to the West Indies, I undertook the management of the first attempt, and having obtained the consent of the Colonial Minister, embarked in the Elizabeth & Jane, a vessel engaged for the purpose, and arrived in Sierra Leone, after a passage of 30 days, on the 16th March, and reported my arrival to Sir John Jeremie, the Governor, and acquainted his Excellency with the object of my visit to the colony.

189. Did Sir John Jeremie appear to be aware of the object of your voyage previous to your arrival?—He was aware of it, and stated the same to me.

190. What orders and instructions did he give in consequence?—He stated that he would not interfere in any way with the disposition of the people with respect to emigration, but leave them to pursue their own inclinations entirely, which he acted upon throughout,

throughout, and two days after my arrival issued a circular to the managers of the different villages, directing them to act upon the same principle.

191. Did you in effect meet with any difficulty or obstruction from any of the subordinate authorities of the colony to the object of your mission?—Not the slightest; but my operations were confined to Freetown, where I met with no obstruction on the part of the authorities. I found some rumours afloat that the people, on arrival in the West Indies, would be sold into slavery, the source of which I could not trace.

192. Do you think that this rumour had any effect in deterring individuals from embarking?—I have not the slightest doubt of it.

193. Did you apply to Sir John Jeremie to contradict publicly a report which was in fact libellous upon the British colonial government?—I did not; for fortunately at that critical moment about 300 men of 3d W. I. black regiment arrived in the colony, and I confidently referred to them for a true account of the state of affairs in the West Indies; and after some shrewd and close inquiries had been made at that source, I found that I had as many applicants as the Elizabeth & Jane could carry.

194. When you say that no obstructions were thrown in your way, do you mean that you had no formalities to comply with, or fees to pay, prior to the embarkation of the emigrants?—By a colonial law, persons intending to leave the colony are compelled to post up their names ten days previously in the secretary's office, and take out a passport, for which a fee of 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling is charged; but his Excellency Sir John Jeremie, when made acquainted with the circumstances, expressed his intention to modify or remove this regulation.

195. Were you furnished with a copy of our Trinidad Immigration Ordinance previous to your leaving London?—Yes, I was.

196. Were you governed by this ordinance with respect to the number of passengers, and the stores and provisions required to be embarked for their use during the voyage?—I intended and expected to have acted under the regulations of this ordinance, but found that I was required in Sierra Leone to act under an ordinance promulgated by Sir John Jeremie, which, from the extended scale of allowance with respect to water, entailed a great expense in the additional purchase of casks.

197. What is the difference in the allowance of water required under the two ordinances?—The difference is 3-10ths of a gallon per day in the Sierra Leone ordinance; but in addition, the passage is rated at eight weeks instead of six, allowed by the Trinidad regulation.

198. What was the length of your passage?—Within 29 days from embarkation to coming to anchor in the harbour of Port of Spain.

199. Do you not consider this a very short passage, and much less than an average one?—I do not; the whole distance is about 3,000 miles, and we had light airs and calms about 10 days on the coast; and I fairly consider 30 days to be a certain average passage.

200. The committee observe, by parliamentary papers laid before the House of Lords in 1791, relative to the slave trade, that the average length of passages was considered at that time to be 51 days?—This might have been an average passage, taking all the ports and places nearer the line from whence slaves were brought; but considering the position of Sierra Leone, with a trade wind regularly blowing across the Atlantic, I am decidedly of opinion, which in some respects I may be considered as competent to give, having sailed 20 years in the Royal Navy, that 30 days from Sierra Leone to Trinidad is a fair average passage.

201. You had then a large surplus of water and provisions on hand when you arrived?—Yes, I had; but the provisions were very saleable. The loss arose principally from the overstock of water, which took up much room on board, and required an extra number of casks, upon which there has been great loss.

202. Did Sir John Jeremie's ordinance differ from the Immigration Act of Trinidad, with respect to the number of passengers, and the equal proportion of the sexes, which the latter prescribes?—Sir John Jeremie's ordinance was in fact an adoption of the British Passengers' Act (save and except the allowance of food and water), which Act agrees with that of Trinidad with respect to the proportion of the number of passengers to the tonnage, but contains no restriction as to the equal proportion of the sexes; but his Excellency stated that he had no objection to my taking three males to two females, which I could not venture to act upon, having been instructed in London to adhere strictly to the Trinidad ordinance.

203. But it appears that Sir John Jeremie would not allow you to act under the Trinidad ordinance with respect to the allowance of water and provision?—Certainly not; and I could not have sailed without complying with his regulations.

204. You then in fact were bound by the most stringent and unfavourable regulations which were to be found in both ordinances?—Certainly; I was obliged to follow the Sierra Leone ordinance with respect to the extra quantity of water, and have started here at least one-half of what I took on board: and I was also obliged to follow the Trinidad ordinance with respect to the equal proportion of the sexes, when Sir John Jeremie would have allowed me to take three men to two women, which is the proportion fixed by the Jamaica Act.

205. In this respect, therefore, Jamaica enjoys at the present moment a privilege of which Trinidad is deprived?—Certainly, in respect to the proportion of the sexes, it does.

206. What do you consider to be the population of Sierra Leone?—Near 50,000, in which I include the population of the whole colony.

207. Is not this a smaller number than the whole of the liberated Africans who have been landed from time to time in the colony?—Certainly; for, from a document now in my

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possession, the number landed from 1808 to 1833, amounted, even at that distant period, to 44,000, and since then I know that during only two successive years as many as 15,000 more were landed; but in the last case I speak from memory.

208. To what cause do you ascribe this decrease in the population?—To the difference in the proportion of the sexes landed from the captured slave ships, and to the immense number of deaths during the first six months after their arrival.

209. Have you good authority for this statement?—I examined this subject fully when chief clerk in the captured negro department at Sierra Leone, which office I filled for 15 months, and had free access to all the documents.

210. Could the Elizabeth & Jane have brought any cargo from Sierra Leone besides her passengers?—I asked the captain this question at sea, and he told me he could have carried about 250 tons of cargo in addition.

211. What was her tonnage?—336 tons.

212. What articles could be exported advantageously from Sierra Leone to Trinidad, so as to give a vessel carrying passengers additional profit in freight?—Planks, scantling, and shingles, decidedly; which articles I understand are in great demand in this colony, and bear a high price. Rice also would answer well, as it is frequently to be purchased at Sierra Leone at 7*l.* sterling a ton; I mean red rice. I am not aware of any other articles which would answer for the market of this colony.

213. What timber do you allude to, and at what price could it be furnished per 1,000 feet?—Brimstone, white wismore, and cedar, which can be furnished at 25 to 30 dollars per 1,000 feet.

214. Are these durable woods capable of standing in the ground for any length of time without perishing?—Brimstone is a hard and durable wood, but not so durable as teak, and that would be infinitely higher in price.

215. How long have you now been in the colony, and what opportunity have you had of seeing the various districts in it?—I have been 15 days in the colony, during which period I have made it my duty to visit every district, except Chagu Anas, in which the Sierra Leone labourers are located.

216. What was their state of health during the middle passage?—A few of them, according to the doctor's report, suffered from inflammatory fever, shortly after embarking, arising from change of diet as to quantity and quality, from which they soon recovered; and the doctor's principal duty afterwards was to attend to some old sores and ulcers, which several had been labouring under for a long time previously to their coming on board; and the whole landed in excellent health, excepting an infant under 12 months old, who died three days before our arrival from some pulmonary affection.

217. Did they seem happy and contented during the passage, as if under no apprehensions with respect to their future condition?—They appeared quite happy and contented, and the stories which had been circulated in Sierra Leone as to my intention to sell them into slavery was frequently a subject of joke amongst them during the voyage.

218. As since your arrival you have had opportunities of visiting the several estates on which they are settled, please to state their present feelings and impressions?—I have seen the greater part of them; most of them have thanked me for bringing them to a good country, and have asked me to send their friends from Sierra Leone to join them. In no case have I heard a single expression of disappointment, except from a few masons and carpenters, who said they could do better in Sierra Leone.

219. Is it possible that they could do better as masons and carpenters at Sierra Leone, as they readily earn here one dollar per day for their work?—Those I allude to were complaining rather of their not finding employment at their trades than of the amount of wages. They were working as labourers in the cane-pieces; but even these requested me to send their friends from Sierra Leone to join them; and on my suggesting that, as they were dissatisfied, they had better return and join their friends there, they seemed by no means disposed to accede to my recommendation.

220. Are you yourself now seriously of opinion, from what you have seen and witnessed, that these people have greatly improved their condition by coming to this colony?—Not a question of it; and I feel the greatest gratification at having been instrumental in conferring so great a benefit on so many of my fellow-creatures. In the first place, the rate of wages at Sierra Leone does not exceed 4*d.* per day, and at this rate there is a great scarcity of employment. As assistant-surveyor, which office I filled for six months, I have frequently turned away from 200 to 300 men soliciting employment at that rate. I am now talking of Freetown; but in the villages and sea districts, I am at a loss to conceive what employment can be found for the population.

221. How then do they earn the means of subsistence?—By rearing some pigs and poultry.

222. Have they any market to which they can convey these articles?—In the sea districts they have a very limited market in the supply of the schools, but affording a poor resource to so large a population. Freetown, the capital, affords a good market, to which the residents within 10 to 12 miles around bring their produce in baskets upon their heads, and return the same day.

223. Do they raise no exportable articles?—A small quantity of ginger, arrow-root, and pepper. I have heard of nothing else.

224. What do you consider to be the quality of soil in Sierra Leone, as compared with that of Trinidad?—They may be classed in the two extremes; one as inferior as it can be, and the other amongst the richest I have ever seen.

225. Have

225. Have any of the emigrants you brought out remarked upon this difference when you last saw them?—They immediately pointed out to me the difference between the canes here and at Sierra Leone, where a few are brought into the market to suck, which in derision they likened to their little finger, as compared to those of this country.

226. Did they find any difficulty in getting into immediate employment on arrival?—Quite the contrary; such was the competition to obtain their services, that they were immediately aware of the increased independence of their position. I even observed it in their bearing to myself.

227. What number of labourers do you think could be procured from Sierra Leone?—Ten thousand could be immediately removed with the greatest advantage to themselves, and to those they would leave behind.

228. Have you had any opportunity of ascertaining what wages the labourers you brought with you have been earning since their arrival?—All had performed one task, by which they earned half a dollar, besides an allowance of salt cod-fish and flour. A few had performed two tasks per day; and when they are better acquainted with the cane cultivation, they will certainly do as much as the native labourers.

229. But if immediately on arrival here, and before they are accustomed to the work, they can easily earn half a dollar a day, besides an allowance of provisions, whilst the maximum rate of wages at Sierra Leone is only 4 *d.* per day, would it not be advantageous to the whole population of that colony to remove hither?—Certainly, if wages continued at Sierra Leone at the same rate of depression; but I should hope by the removal of 10,000 to this colony, that wages would rise there, and create increased activity and prosperity in the whole community, for I have always observed that a low rate of wages is a concomitant of poverty and distress.

230. But if you think that only 10,000 labourers can be spared from Sierra Leone, this number would constitute a fraction only of the supply required by Trinidad, Guiana, and Jamaica; are you aware of any other sources from which labourers can be procured on the coast?—By proposing the removal of 10,000 only in the first instance, I anticipate from the rise of wages at Sierra Leone a stream of immigration from the interior; so that notwithstanding a continued and regular emigration of labourers from thence to the West Indies, I have every expectation that the population of Sierra Leone would gradually increase.

231. Pray inform the committee how many Kroomen you brought with you in the Elizabeth and Jane, and what employment they have found in this colony?—There were 16 of them, and they are all working on plantations.

232. The committee were under an impression that this class of people would only work on shipboard, or on the sea-shore; how do you account for this circumstance?—I consider their present employment as only temporary, and that they will ultimately resume their favourite occupation on shipboard.

233. Did they make any complaint to you of being obliged to enter into agricultural employments?—Not the least. They seemed as well satisfied as the others; and I can only account for what has surprised myself, by supposing that it arises from their being furnished with houses gratis.

234. Do you think that any considerable number of Kroomen can be procured from Sierra Leone, or elsewhere on the coast, if this colony continues to hold out prospects sufficiently attractive to them?—Yes; I am assured by the Kroomen who are now here, that many of their countrymen would come if made acquainted with the advantages of Trinidad.

235. But how is the difficulty respecting the equality of the sexes to be got over if the Kroomen, as is generally represented, never carry their families with them?—As they are a stout, fine looking race of fellows, they will have no difficulty when they know the regulation under which their passages alone can be paid, in inducing a sufficient number of women in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone to accompany them to Trinidad.

236. Are the Kroomen a numerous race of people?—I believe so. I know there is a law which prohibits too great a number of them from settling in Sierra Leone, to prevent their throwing the liberated Africans out of employment.

237. Then in fact the employment we can furnish to the people of Sierra Leone here, will not only benefit them, but other tribes of native Africans on the coast?—Certainly it would.

238. Do the Kroomen you have brought seem anxious to know whether there will be any opportunity by which they may return, should they desire it, to Africa?—They have expressed no anxiety upon the subject; for they are well aware that when they wish to return they have only to enter as seamen on board of ships, and find their way home by way of England. As to the liberated Africans, they seem at present only anxious to have their friends and relatives brought to Trinidad; but I think it would be politic and liberal to furnish a vessel occasionally if any of them should wish to return. I am assured that no great number would feel disposed to avail themselves of the opportunity; for before I left Sierra Leone I pledged myself publicly to pay the passages of six persons back, to report as to the actual state of affairs in Trinidad; and I find on recently applying to them, that not six persons are disposed to return, unless they are paid Trinidad wages during their absence.

239. Do you think there would be any difficulty in procuring labourers from other parts of the coast from whence slaves are now brought to foreign colonies?—I do not profess to be well acquainted with other parts of Africa besides Sierra Leone; but I am

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

of opinion that, excepting the Kroomen, few of the natives are perfectly free and independent, and their removal could never be effected without first purchasing the consent of their native chiefs.

240. Where would be the objection to such an arrangement?—I should consider such an arrangement virtually slave-dealing.

241. You do not imagine, then, that after paying their chiefs to allow them to take a free passage to Trinidad, they would be made slaves on their arrival here?—Certainly not.

242. In what respect, then, do you consider that this would be virtually slave-dealing?—It would not be a voluntary act on the part of the emigrants.

243. But could it not be easily made a voluntary act, by inducing some of the Kroomen from hence to instruct the natives in the difference between being forced in irons on board a slaver bound to the Brazils or Cuba, there to be worked as slaves for the rest of their lives, or taking the pleasant passage you have described in the Elizabeth and Jane on board a British vessel to a British colony, where they would be employed as freemen at high wages?—I do not think that persons under such circumstances can emigrate voluntarily.

244. The committee cannot understand why they should not emigrate voluntarily, if thoroughly persuaded that their condition in life would be incalculably benefited by the change; does not a slave frequently abscond from his master, in spite of all the risks attending such a step; and why should not a native of Africa desire to quit his bondage at home, and become a happy freeman in a British colony?—The case of the slave and the supposed emigrant are not parallel cases.

245. In one respect, certainly, the cases are not parallel, as the runaway slave incurs tremendous risks by endeavouring to escape from bondage, whilst the supposed emigrant would incur none by quitting Africa with the consent of his chief; but are they not both slaves in the first instance, and so far, in the most material point, placed in similar circumstances?—I must admit that in places where slaves are purchased the cases are parallel but I have the strongest objection to such a proceeding.

246. You have admitted the supposed emigrants to be at present in a state of slavery that they would immediately gain their freedom, and be carried to a colony which holds out, even to the free man of Sierra Leone, the greatest inducements for the improvement of his condition; what, then, would be your particular objection to such a mode of proceeding?—I think that a nation which has made such great sacrifices for the abolition of slavery should not tolerate any proceeding which bears the slightest or most distant appearance of slave-dealing.

247. The committee consent to admit that this may so far wear the appearance of slave-dealing, inasmuch as a slave may be said to be sold when his chief gives up his power to retain him in slavery for a money consideration; but no slave would be purchased, as his freedom would immediately follow. You are well aware that when Europeans were captured and enslaved by Barbary corsairs, their friends and countrymen frequently purchased their freedom from the African chief by whom they were held in possession. Would you press your last objection so far as to say that this was an improper mode of proceeding, as wearing the appearance of slave-dealing; and if not, in what respect would the proceeding first alluded to by the committee differ from it?—I certainly cannot say that it was an improper mode of proceeding to purchase European captives out of slavery; and, as an abstract question, I cannot say that a difference in colour can make any difference in the mode of proceeding; but after reflecting further upon the nature of the question put to me, I beg to say that I am of opinion that if enslaved Africans can be made to comprehend and appreciate the advantages of their removal to the West Indies, it would be quite immaterial whether the consent of their chiefs was purchased by treaty, presents, or any other consideration; but these unfortunate beings are so degraded and so low in the scale of intelligence, to judge from those landed at Sierra Leone, that it would be hopeless to look for any such conviction, not to mention the mischief which would result from setting such an example to foreign nations.

248. The question, as originally put by the committee, pre-supposes that these Africans would be made to comprehend the advantages they would gain by a removal from Africa, and would embark voluntarily?—In this case I can see no objection, but I do not think they would be made to comprehend it.

249. Do you then consider the intellectual condition of the natives of Africa to be so low, that they cannot be made to comprehend the difference between the comforts and discomforts of this life, between slavery and freedom; an opinion which the committee would never have formed, judging by their own experience of the 1000 liberated Africans landed in this island five years ago, who appear to be as acute and intelligent, with respect to their personal interests, as any labourers in the island. And are you also of opinion that the African recruits who enter every year into our West India regiments are not made to understand beforehand, that by enlisting they will at least improve their condition; do you really believe that they are not made to comprehend this, and that they do not, in fact, volunteer into the service?—I do not think that they have any opinion about it, but are passively guided by their countrymen who are the recruiting sergeants; but, upon reflection, I am disposed to confine my objection to what I before stated as to the mischief which might result from setting such an example.

250. What is the nature of the mischief which you apprehend might result?—I think that foreigners might pretend to follow our example, and embark a number of Africans as emigrants for the Brazils and Cuba, and make slaves of them on their arrival.

251. Certainly

251. Certainly our cruisers could not stop foreign vessels carrying Africans under the same regulations as our immigrant ships; but do you think it will be safe for the slave-dealers to transport them in that unguarded mode, when it becomes known to the natives that they are to be ultimately sold into slavery; or do you think they can afford to carry them as cheaply under such regulations as they do at present?—I do not apprehend that these considerations would be sufficient to deter them, and the objection still continues that they would be enslaved on landing.

252. You are, no doubt, aware, that Sir Thomas Buxton estimates that one-fourth at least of the slaves now embarked on the coast of Africa perish in the middle passage, and that of the remainder one-fifth die afterwards on shore from the misery they have endured by being crammed almost to suffocation in the holds of the ships during the voyage. Now, even admitting what you have asserted, that foreigners would immediately follow our example, and convey their slaves as emigrants, would not the avoidance of the horrors of the middle passage, and the saving of thousands of lives, prove, instead of a mischief, a great gain to humanity?—I admit it would be an advantage on the score of humanity, but still deprecate the proceeding as a continuance of the slave-trade.

253. But if it could be proved to your satisfaction that this would be the quickest and most efficacious mode of putting an end to the slave trade, would your objections to the proceeding still continue?—If such a thing could be proved, certainly not.

254. Do you entertain any doubt, from what you have observed since your arrival, of the correctness of the opinion of the inhabitants of this colony, that our soil is as fertile as that of the Brazils or Cuba, or of any other part of the world?—I admit that it appears extremely fertile, and I am not disposed to doubt the opinion of those best capable of judging, although I cannot answer the question from my own experience.

255. What do you consider would be the expense of removing an African to this colony under our Immigration Ordinance, including the purchase of the consent of his chief to his departure?—Presuming that his consent to make him a free man could not be purchased for less than the sum he now obtains for disposing of him as a slave, this would amount to the 30 dollars, which, added to 30 for his passage, would make 60 dollars the whole cost of bringing a labourer to this colony.

256. Can you state to the committee the amount paid by a planter in the Brazils or Cuba for the purchase of an African slave?—Sir Thomas Buxton's work states that a slave sells in Cuba for 350 dollars.

257. But to this sum of 350 dollars must you not add the 20 per cent. which is stated in the same work to be the lowest estimate of the loss in seasoning, making the real cost to the planter 420 dollars?—Certainly, this must be added.

258. Taking it, then, for granted that our soils are of equal fertility, do you imagine that the planter of Cuba or Brazil could compete with the planter in Trinidad in the cultivation of sugar, when the former is obliged to pay 420 dollars for a labourer, whom we could procure for 60 dollars, without adverting to the great additional cost of keeping up a slave population by large annual supplies, whilst our free population would not only support itself, but be augmented by a natural increase?—Supposing your soil to be equally fertile with theirs, the advantage would, no doubt, be greatly on your side.

259. If, then, we could raise sugar cheaper than the planter of these colonies, and had ready access to the same supply of labour, should we not speedily drive them out of every sugar market?—The conclusion is, I think, a natural consequence.

260. Do you believe that they would continue to import slaves from Africa when they ceased to make a profit by it?—Certainly not.

261. The slave trade would then be totally extinguished, would it not?—The slave trade would certainly be abolished, but the very discussion involves a revolting discussion regarding human flesh.

262. In deciding upon the merits of any proceeding, do you judge of it by the language held, and the tone used in its discussion, or by the nature of the ultimate results it is intended to produce?—No results, however desirable, can be justified, if arrived at by the sacrifice of feelings which should be cherished by human nature.

263. The committee cannot understand how your answer applies to the discussion which this examination has led to. It appears by your own admission, that the only practical changes which the plan supposed of purchasing the consent of the African chieftains to the emigration of their native subjects would lead to, would be the avoidance of the horrors of the middle passage in the first instance, and the early abolition of the slave trade afterwards. Can you, on reflection, discover any sacrifice of feeling to be cherished by human nature which would be required under such circumstances?—I am ready to admit that my objections may partake more of sentiment than of reason, but I cannot give any other reply to the committee.

264. Is it your intention to remain any time in this colony?—It was my original intention to have remained here some time, in order to judge of the condition and prospects of the emigrants I brought over, and of the desirableness or otherwise of recommending a further emigration. But I already find that the people are so well off, that I can be of no service to them; and being fully convinced of the great advantages which the people of Sierra Leone will derive from removing to Trinidad, it is my intention to proceed immediately to recommend the same in London.

265. Is there any other matter upon which you wish to inform the committee?—I am not aware of anything else I wish to say.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

— No. 30. —

EVIDENCE given by Messrs. *Maxwell* and *Darling*, before the Agricultural Committee, Trinidad.

No. 30. Evidence given by Messrs. Maxwell & Darling.

EXTRACT from Mr. *Maxwell*'s Evidence, 22 March 1841.

42. Comparing the work of the natives and the different classes of immigrants together, which do you prefer?—That of the natives decidedly, they understand it better.

42*. Have you tried the liberated Africans?—We have three on the estate; they work extremely well. One of the women I mentioned is an African; she is my god-daughter, and I have now 100 dollars belonging to her in my hands.

43. Would you be pleased to see a greater number of these Africans arrive?—I should prefer them much to the labourers from the old islands, as I think they are disposed to settle down more steadily.

44. Would you not apprehend that from want of education they might be turbulent, commit breaches of the peace and acts of violence?—Not if distributed generally amongst the natives, and not allowed to settle too much by themselves, particularly if they brought their wives with them.

EXTRACT from Mr. *Darling*'s Evidence, 8 May 1841.

Are you acquainted with the liberated Africans as labourers?—I have employed a great number of them, and, generally speaking, prefer them as labourers to the old island immigrants. They are steadier workers, and more hardy in the field.

Has there been a considerable immigration of labourers into the colony since emancipation?—Very considerable; and it seems to become more steady and regular every day.

— No. 31. —

No. 31. Extract from Report of Sub-committee of Agricultural Society, Trinidad, 1841.

EXTRACT from Report of Sub-committee of Agricultural Society, Trinidad, 1841.

7th. That a permission granted to the colonists of Trinidad to engage labourers in Africa (to whom the change in every social and moral point of view would be highly beneficial), would remedy every existing evil, and be easily effected without the slightest pecuniary cost to the mother country, by the establishment only of a land and emigration fund in this colony, from the proceeds of which every necessary expense could be easily defrayed.

8th. That this mode of proceeding, whilst it holds out a rational prospect of extinguishing the present traffic in slaves, by the successful efforts of free labour, will assist rather than interfere with any other plan now under consideration by Her Majesty's Government for the same object. It will involve us in no angry collision with the natives of Africa, whose wretched habits, the growth of ages, may be gradually effaced by gentle persuasion, but can never be eradicated by force. Whenever British power and authority presents itself to them clothed only in the missionary garb of peace, holding the Bible in one hand and a manumission fund in the other, we may reasonably hope for success. In this mode alone can the tracts of fertile soil, so lavishly spread by Almighty Providence over the surface of this island, be brought into cultivation and made available for human use, which otherwise must remain as hitherto, lifeless and barren wastes; but so employed will be converted into a mine of wealth, creating immediately an extensive field for British enterprise and British capital, furnishing an ample fund for the redemption of Africans from bondage, and holding out the cheering expectation of extinguishing for ever the cause which alone creates and supports the present execrable traffic in slaves.

— No. 32. —

EXTRACTS from Land Commissioners' Report on Agricultural Committee, Evidence, &c. &c., dated 3 December 1841.

No. 32. Extracts from Land Commissioners' Report.

WITH respect to the immigrants from other quarters, all the witnesses who speak to the point decidedly give the preference to the liberated Africans, who, moreover, seem to suffer least from the effects of the climate. Mr. Maxwell, a proprietor, "prefers them much to the labourers from the old islands," as he thinks "they are disposed to settle down more steadily." So does Mr. Darling, another proprietor, because "they are steadier workers, and more hardy in the field." The colonial surgeon considers them to be "a manageable and orderly set of people;" and, further, that they are "the healthiest class of people in the island, even more so than the creoles," and that no other class of labourers in the island would have supported, as some of them within his own knowledge do, the marsh miasma to which they are continually exposed. He adds, "In general you can recognise the liberated Africans, before you see their country marks, by their stout and healthy appearance."

The rate of wages at Sierra Leone is given by Lieutenant Hamilton, who had arrived at Trinidad with a party of emigrants from that colony. This gentleman had resided three years

years in Sierra Leone, and states that the rate of wages does not exceed 4 *d.* a day, and that at this rate there is a great scarcity of employment. That filling the office of assistant surveyor, he has frequently turned away from 200 to 300 men soliciting employment at that rate. He adds further, that in saying this he is speaking only of Free Town; but that in the villages and sea districts he is at a loss to conceive what employment can be found for the population.

Lieutenant Hamilton, to whose evidence we have before referred, states, that the whole population of Sierra Leone may be estimated at near 50,000, and he thinks that 10,000 could be immediately removed with the greatest advantage to themselves and to those they would leave behind; and that the withdrawal of this number, by raising wages in the colony, would cause a stream of immigration to be directed to it from the interior. He is also of opinion that a considerable number of Kroomen could be procured from Sierra Leone and elsewhere on the coast when made acquainted with the advantages awaiting them at Trinidad. There is at present a law prohibiting too great a number of them from settling in Sierra Leone, in order that they may not throw the liberated Africans out of employment. In answer to the questions of the committee, Lieutenant Hamilton maintains his repugnance to the practice suggested to him of purchasing the freedom of labourers in the interior, for the purpose of enabling them to emigrate, because he considers that it would be virtually slave-dealing, and that it would set a bad example to foreigners.

As regards the remaining propositions, there can be no doubt that the immigration of labourers would afford a great relief to the proprietors of land in the colony, and would tend to render available the fertile districts which are now lying waste over a large proportion of the island. Whence, however, it can be obtained in sufficient amount, and by what means it can be paid for, are points which are very insufficiently dealt with and provided for in the report of the committee. Nor is any estimate furnished of the numbers which could be annually absorbed into the community. The numbers of persons who have arrived within the last twelve months must be nearly 4,000, or about one-tenth of the whole population. This, however considerable, appears to be altogether insufficient for the wants of employers, but to what extent it is so does not appear to be stated in the evidence. As regards the source from which the requisite amount of immigration is to be derived, the committee, we observe, look exclusively to Africa, and not to the British possessions in Africa, but to Africa at large. This question, however, is one upon which we are imperfectly informed, and which involves political considerations of the highest importance, upon which it would be beyond our province to enter into at any length.

— No. 33. —

EXTRACT from REPORT of Dr. *Madden*, Commissioner of Inquiry on the Western Coast of *Africa*, dated 31 July 1841.

No. 33. Extract from Report of Dr. Madden.

MY attention having been directed by my instructions to the subject of emigration from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, the practicability of that measure, and the advantages likely to be derived from an intercourse being opened between the people of Africa and those of their race in our colonies, I endeavoured to ascertain how such an emigration might go on without the risk of deceiving the emigrants, or giving other powers a cause of suspicion or a pretext for assuming, that the removal of these negroes was a covert re-opening of the slave-trade.

The advantages of a well-regulated system of emigration for the natives, both of Africa and the West Indies, there may be little doubt of; the abuses also which may attend the removal of any considerable portion of the people from one country to another, require to be well considered before it is carried any further into effect.

Before I left England, having been in communication with the emigration agent of one of the largest of the West India colonies, I was led to believe that a great deal of error prevailed with respect to the number of negroes that might be obtained from Sierra Leone, and the forlorn hope, which to me it seemed to be, of counting on a continuance of the emancipation of captured negroes in Sierra Leone for a supply of labour in our colonies, sufficient to enable them to compete with a neighbouring settlement where 25,000 negroes a year are regularly introduced. I stated this opinion, and the question was asked me, what objection there could be to obtaining negroes from any part of Africa, where they might be obtained without purchasing them as slaves, but as free men who might voluntarily offer to emigrate for a certain period to our colonies? My reply was, that it would be impossible, I feared, to do this without justifying the suspicions that would arise in the minds of foreign nations, whose subjects are already involved in this trade, that we ourselves were once more having recourse to it.

The question however of the possibility of preventing persons in our colonies from receiving free negroes from Africa who might desire to go to the West Indies for employment has been subsequently put to me, and in a shape which made me imagine this matter would be pressed on the attention of Government: and the result of much consideration of this subject was, that it was necessary to ascertain the possibility of obtaining free negroes for emigration in Africa, and not of allowing the matter to be taken for granted that it was possible to do so.

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Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

I fear that we should never be able to remove the inhabitants of Africa to our colonies in the West Indies without obtaining them from their chiefs, or obtaining the consent of the latter for their departure, by purchasing their sanction or paying for it by bribes or presents, which in Africa are always equivalent to the value of what is "dashed" as they call it, or given away nominally. For the purpose of ascertaining the matter, I took advantage of a visit to the Kroo coast, to assemble the chiefs and head people of the towns of Grand Sesters and Cape Palmas, and lay the question of the proposed advantages of emigration to the West Indies fairly and fully before them. I ought to state that my instructions applied only to the removal of negroes from our settlement on the coast; but for the reasons assigned, and the purpose of really knowing what prospect there was of ever being able to effect an emigration from the countries of the natives with safety to the parties and advantage to the colonies, I took the responsibility on myself of making these inquiries, and the following is the result of them:—

The negroes at the first opening of the subject expressed extreme repugnance at the idea of going to the West Indies; they said it was not the fashion of Krooman's country to go so far away from their own land; that they would not go to a country where the people were slaves; that they did not like West India country; that they never would be let to come back to their own country. After taking a good deal of pains to inform them what the actual distance was to these colonies; what the present condition of the negroes was there what the wages were which negroes earned in those places, and at what reasonable periods they might stipulate to return, and with what advantage to their interests they might possibly return, I suggested to them that if they had any idea of emigration there, provided they thought well of the advantages pointed out, they might send three or four of their headmen from Sierra Leone with some vessel from that colony, to visit the West Indies and form an opinion for themselves whether they would feel justified in recommending their countrymen to go to these islands as free labourers, who might count on the sum at least of a dollar and a half a week without deductions from their wages; and moreover, that if they made such an application, I thought it was probable that the governments in those colonies would pay all the expenses of the persons they sent in the first instance, to see whether their going to those colonies would be likely to be beneficial to them or not. This proposition seemed to them reasonable, and several ultimately said they would consent to it provided they would be sent to the colonies in a king's ship, and provided they would be allowed to return, at the very furthest, after three years' stay in these colonies.

I then stated that it would be requisite for their wives and families to accompany them, but this proposition was met with a loud and general expression of determination on the part of the chiefs not to let one of the latter accompany the men who went. One aged chief asked if the people who came from England to their country were married, and if so, what was the reason they were not permitted to take their wives with them? was it not because it pained their hearts when they were a long time separated from them, and this caused them to return as soon as they could to their own country? For that reason, they, the chiefs, would never let the people of the Kroo country take their wives with them when they went away, because they were obliged by this means to return home, which otherwise they would not do. They would not listen to any argument against this view; in short, the women were to be kept as hostages for the return of their husbands to their country. In fact, no emigration was to be expected except on conditions which would defeat the object of the planters in the West Indies, and injure the morals of the negroes settled in them. It was one of the leading instructions to the superintendent of the liberated Africans in Cuba, from the Colonial Minister, to pay especial attention to the equalisation of the sexes in the distribution of the negroes, as it had been found in our colonies that where that circumstance had not been attended to, the effect on the morals of the community had been very injurious. In another point of view, it seems to me it would be questionable enough whether effects quite as injurious might not arise from the introduction of a new pagan population into colonies merging from ignorance and moral darkness into religious enlightenment and civilisation.

The Kroomen are all Pagans; neither the Christian nor the Mahommedan religion has ever made the slightest progress in their country; and there is not, I believe, a single instance known of a Krooman in Sierra Leone having been converted to the Christian faith.

I took some trouble to make myself acquainted with their religious opinions, and elsewhere their own replies to queries on these subjects will be found. It will be seen that, like all the people of Africa, the propitiation of evil spirits, under the various anomalous forms of Fetish observances, is the only species of worship that is offered to supernal power, and that to deprecate the wrath of beings who have the power and the will to do injury to men, is the great object of their religious homage to the devils who preside over human affairs.

These people, like all the other Pagan Africans I have met with, have an obscure idea of the existence of one great Deity, by whom the whole world was created, and to whom all good men go when they die. They have an ill-defined belief in the goodness of that Deity, but they believe his care or providence does not extend to the human race in this world; the government of it is delegated to the evil spirits, so that they offer no homage to the Deity, but only seek to ingratiate themselves into the favour of his ministers.

They make no human sacrifice in honour of the Fetish divinities like the Pagans of Dahomey, the Bonny, Ashantee, and Appolonia; they frequently sacrifice animals, however,

ever, to them, and this sacrifice of shedding blood and offering up the flesh of the slaughtered animal prevails over the whole regions of Africa, wherever Paganism has been found. I think the re-introduction of the devil-worship of these poor Africans into our colonies would in time seriously impede the efforts we have been making to Christianise the negroes in these colonies, and unsettle the ideas of those whose fathers at least have been born and bred in Paganism. The other conditions of being taken out in king's ships, or, as they mean, under the protection of them, and of being sent back to their own country at the expiration of three years, I consider would be serious impediments to the removal, and objectionable to the pecuniary views that are entertained on the subject of their employment.

And these objections and difficulties apply to the removal of the only class of Africans who can be found on the whole coast of Africa, who would have sufficient energy of mind, love of acquiring money, and willingness to work hard for the sake of hoarding up their earnings to emigrate to those distant colonies.

The above considerations are independent of those which the jealousy of foreign powers, and the injustice they always do to our efforts for the suppression of this trade, might suggest; and we might surely expect to have attributed to us the concealed desire and selfish policy of endeavouring to ruin their slave-trade for the purpose of re-opening our own.

The good to be derived from such an emigration is too small, and the efforts that are made for the suppression of the slave-trade of too high a character to allow these efforts, by the difficulty of obviating abuses, to become suspicious, or, by the malignity of their opponents, to be made suspected. Having had a similar conference with the chiefs and natives of Cape Palmas to that which had taken place at Grand Sesters, the result was the same; the same difficulties and objections were raised, and the same determination expressed not to suffer any of their women to accompany the men who might be disposed to go. Two of the headmen here were from the neighbouring town of Grand Cavallo, one called Jem of Liverpool, the other Tom Peter. Both of these men were persons of remarkable intelligence and strong sound sense; they seemed to comprehend the whole bearings of the question on the advantage to the community at large, and the interests of the individuals of it who might emigrate to our colonies. The man named Jem had been to the West Indies, and was aware of slavery having been done away with there. He said if any of the chiefs were appointed to go to the West Indies, to see whether it was proper or not to send their people there, he would go, if they paid his expenses there and back. He thought, when he had been there before, there was too much flogging for that country ever to be a good one for Kroomen to live in, but they paid people now, and he had heard they found out that flogging poor slaves was a "waw waw fashion," a very bad way to make people work for them. * * * * * *

Shortly after my arrival in Sierra Leone, being unable to visit the country districts, I called on the superintendent of liberated Africans to summon the headmen and leaders of the different communities of this class, for the purpose of ascertaining their views with respect to emigration to the West Indies, and explaining those of the Government on this head to them. A vast assemblage of these people from all the various districts attended at the appointed time at the Liberated African Yard; the number was probably from 300 to 400.

This assemblage of negroes was the most respectable in their appearance and the most seemly and decent in their dress of any body of coloured people I ever saw in any country. They listened with great attention to the views of Government with respect to emigration; that the territory of Sierra Leone was becoming too limited for the proper maintenance of a largely increasing population; that wages were low, labourers many, and capital wanting to carry on cultivation on a sufficiently large scale; and that Her Majesty's Government, besides these considerations, were moved by the prospect of great advantages arising both to Africa and the West Indies from a free intercourse between the people of these countries, who were originally of one stock, and should be mutually interested in each other's welfare. That no constraint was to be put upon their determination either to remain or to remove; and that, if they determined on the latter, care should be taken that no injustice should be done them either by the agents of the emigration societies or the employers of them in the colonies.

It was impossible for any people to express themselves more properly, and in a better spirit, I must add, of perfect confidence in the intentions of Her Majesty's Government towards them, than they did on this occasion. An opinion, however, had got possession of their minds that it was the intention of the Government to give up this colony, and remove all the liberated Africans to the West Indies.

This impression I found it very difficult to remove; and still they did not complain of this supposed determination, but they expressed their readiness to comply with the wishes of the Government, whatever they were; at the same time, I must say that nine-tenths of all who were assembled declared they had no desire to leave the colony; they wished to remain there, and the only boon they would ask of Government would be to grant them some allotments of better and more fertile lands.

Many of them, on the part of those whom they represented, and of those around them, came to me personally, and requested permission to ask questions on the subject of the explanations I had given. The information I gave them was such as to remove any fears they entertained on the score of treatment or remuneration; but their attachment to the soil, and to a great many of them their native soil, seemed to predominate over every other prospect of advantage, and the great majority seemed to me evidently strongly indisposed to quit the colony.

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It must be remembered, however, that the persons assembled (the spokesmen of the whole body) were somewhat advanced in years, had the appearance of being tolerably well off where they were, and were in general men of staid and settled habits; but those, and there are many of contrary tastes, young in years, poor in pocket, unsuccessful in cultivation, or averse from employment in it, and especially those of the liberated Africans settled in Freetown, will be disposed to emigrate, and I should think the emigration agents in the year might find a sufficient number of this class to complete the despatch of three or four vessels, containing in all from 500 to 800 negroes.

It surely is not to numbers like these the West India proprietors can look for any important accession to the strength of the labour in these colonies; and what good is to be expected from the class I speak of, as that which is alone likely to furnish the persons who are disposed to emigrate, namely, the destitute and the indolent, the "loafers" (if I may use the American term) of Freetown and its suburbs? The first exportation of liberated Africans from Sierra Leone to the West Indies took place in the early part of last year; and one of the vessels with emigrants for Demerara sailed subsequently to my arrival at Sierra Leone. Altogether, by the returns given to me by the Colonial Secretary, the number of
12. liberated Africans who have left the colony since October 1839 for Badagry, on the Coast of
13. Africa, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Demerara, was 693; but by the return of the collector of the customs, the number sent to the West Indies amounts to 612.

But although there is some discrepancy in these returns, I have no reason to believe that the emigration was conducted in these instances without sufficient care and vigilance. The copies of proclamations issued by some of the emigration agents, I think, were calculated to mislead the negroes, and to encourage expectations which were not likely to be realised.

From this censure, Mr. Barclay, the agent for Jamaica, is entirely exempt; his
14. representations to the negroes were fair and honest, and made in a frank and straightforward manner.

In one proclamation it is stated that a man who works hard "can catch four cut-moneys
15. in one day." Now the cut-money is a quarter of a dollar, and the ordinary rate of wages and allowance, it is stated, are two cut-moneys a day, half a pound of salt fish; "and he will have a house and farm, and catch a little rum every day."

In another proclamation, the wages and allowances promised are eight and a half Spanish
16. dollars a month, with comfortable lodging, garden-ground, medical attendance and medicine: or in lieu of these, five and a half Spanish dollars a month, 14 pints of rice a week, and three and a half pounds of salt fish or pork, besides a small gratuity of rum, tobacco and pipes, comfortable lodgings, garden-ground, medical attendance and medicine; and in periods of scarcity of labour the negroes are told they may earn three or four shillings a day by piece-work. If these promises are kept, the emigrants will certainly have no reason to complain. It seems to me extremely necessary that the authorities in our colonies should see that these promises are strictly kept, and that the negroes are not held to compulsory service beyond a certain specified time, on the plea of repaying any exorbitant expenses for their removal.

I have considered, I believe fairly and impartially, the question of the prospects and practicability of immigration. I have made my inquiries with the view of promoting both to the utmost of my power; my instructions made it my duty to do so, and the sense of duty also induces me to state my conviction that the West India colonies will derive no permanent or important advantage from this kind of emigration.

* * * * * * * *

That I have not exaggerated the danger of a proposition to carry away the natives of Africa, not from our settlements but from their own shores to the West Indies, I need only refer to a despatch from Colonel Light, Governor of British Guiana, dated 17 July 1840, where he states that an emigrant association has been formed in the colony, independent of Government, for procuring negroes on the Coast of Africa, a proposition which he justly considered, if carried into effect, would prove a measure leading to the establishment of a new slave trade in Africa.

But where emigration has been permitted by the Government from Sierra Leone, as far as human foresight and the wisdom of a cautious experience, as exhibited in the instructions from the Home Government to the colonial authorities on this subject could go, nothing so far has been left undone to prevent the abuses which have attended the removal of labourers from other countries to our colonies. I question, however, if it be in the power of the Government, at 3,000 miles distance from the scene of the execution of its orders, to prevent very serious abuses from creeping into these arrangements for transport from one country to another of large bodies of men on the part of persons who expect to draw profit from the speculation of their removal.

Though I by no means wish to prevent the introduction of free labourers into our emancipated colonies, and think once they have been emancipated, the owners of the soil who have ceased to be the owners of the people on it are entitled to all the assistance and support that can be given them, in order to help the carrying out of the great experiment which is now making in those colonies, I feel it my duty to state the objections that may be raised against emigration, in order that they may be obviated or removed as far as it is possible to do so.

I should have noticed, when speaking on the subject of emigration from Sierra Leone, that one of the emigrant vessels, whose departure with a number of liberated Africans from Sierra Leone for Badagry, mentioned in the returns of the recent departures of emigration vessels furnished by the colonial secretary, was seized by an officer of Captain Tucker, of

Her

Her Majesty's ship "Wolverine," then in charge of a captured slaver, and was carried into Prince's Island on suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade, at which period I happened to be in that island. This schooner was subsequently sent to Sierra Leone for trial; a few negroes, who called themselves liberated Africans, had been found on board: it was represented that there had been many more; but some misunderstanding between the captain and the freighters of the vessel appeared to have taken place, and the result of it was, that a number of the negroes had gone on shore at Badagry with the intention of seeking the permission of the native chiefs to locate themselves there, which place was in the vicinity of their country.

That the chiefs had either made captives of them or the captain of the schooner had not afforded sufficient time for their return, or they had been sold into slavery to the native chiefs by some persons on board the schooner; at all events they were not to be found or accounted for. Colonel Doherty, in a despatch of the 20th March 1840, stated that 40 of the liberated Africans had returned to their country and 200 were anxious to go there. On the receipt of this information, the Secretary of State promptly instructed the governor to allow of no departures without his passport; and it was suggested by Lord John Russell, that the Africans established in the colony were bad judges of the prudence of taking their females away with them; and in all cases of removal his Lordship desired that regulations should be framed in conformity with the Colonial Passengers' Act of the former session of Parliament.

The necessity of these regulations is but too evidently shown in the result of the emigration of the liberated Africans to Badagry, and the fate of the unfortunate people who had imprudently gone there, and in all probability have fallen into slavery.

Appendix (A.) to Dr. *Madden*'s Report.

(No. 11.)

KROO COUNTRY.

QUESTIONS addressed to a Native of *Grand Sesters*, called by Europeans *George Coffee*, and Answers taken down on the spot as delivered, respecting Religion, &c.

How old you, George?—Me no savy, not my country fashion savy that.

Kroo country men no savy write, no savy book?—No; no savy book.

You savy who made sun, moon, and stars; who made people in the world?—No; no savy that; Kroomen no savy that.

When men die, what you do with dead body?—Put him in the ground.

Do dead men stay in ground always?—No, him tomack (his stomach, that is, his spirit) goes to God.

Where do they go to God?—Him go up (pointing to the sky).

Suppose him one bad man, where him go then?—Another great one take him; God no take him.

Where he go then?—Him go up to another man. Some Kroomen have palaver about it; some say when one bad man die, moon take him up.

Do Kroomen say there is one God only, or two or three Gods up above?—How Kroomen savy that; Kroomen no go up alive to savy that.

Do Kroomen often make juju (religious worship) in their country?—Oh yes, make juju very much.

Are the juju men (the priests) very good men?—Oh, very good men.

Who cure sick man in Kroo country?—Juju men.

How you make juju?—Kroomen go and take one cow to juju man; him make great palaver over cow, then cut him throat.

Why him cut his throat?—To make God glad very much, and do Kroomen good.

What does the juju man do then?—Cut off cow's feet and some of belly for himself, throw him head away, head no good; Kroomen no chop (eat) head never; then people come and take the rest, boil him meat, and eat the juju.

What you do with the blood?—Let it run on ground; no man chop blood.

Do women eat some of the cow when you make juju?—Oh no, don't let women come near juju; keep women far off; no good for women to make juju.

A long time ago have you never heard in Kroo country that big waters come and drown all the world?—No, we never hearie that palaver. We hearie long time ago very much, four Kroomen go away in canoe to go to other country, when 14 days pass, big waters come and upset canoe, and four men just go down, when two porpoise come and carry them ashore; all Kroomen know that for true palaver.

You never hearie of Christian religion?—Oh, yes, America juju men come to Kroo country from Cape Palmas (Liberian colony) tell him all that, but Kroomen no savy that palaver.

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That was a good palaver; 'twas good for you to savy that palaver?—No, don't savy that palaver.

How many wives do Kroomen marry?—Some six, some eight, some ten, some plenty, many wives; one head man plenty many wives.

How does a Kroomen here get one wife?—My fader give her fader four or five or six bullocks, if he has them, and I give her some dash (present) too, to buy things for herself.

You buy your wives then?—Yes, Kroomen buy wife, but no buy slaves in him country; no catch men in Kroo country; not him country fashion to make man slave.

Are you married, George?—Me no marry. Captain savy well other Kroo boy, George; him went in ship to England; him have six wives when go in ship, but when come back find two him women run away.

You ever hearie of women having two piccaninies born same time in your country?—Yes, me hearie that.

What do Kroo people do with the two piccaninies born same time in your country?—Oh Kroomen not like Bonney men in him fashion. Bonney men say not good two piccaninies born same time, so kill both piccaninies, and some kill mother too. Kroomen no do that.

Do Kroomen do like Bonney men with white piccaninies born in their country, and say "this country won't bring up white man's piccaniny," and kill them then?—No, Kroomen no kill piccaniny; no say that mouth; that's a very waw waw mouth (a very bad word).

Are no white piccaninies born in him country?—Yes, white piccaninies do born in Kroo country sometimes, but no savy speak English, no savy speak that country mouth; all Krooman's piccaninies speaks Krooman's mouth.

When women die in Kroo country, where your people say they go?—Where him go (somewhat angrily answered), where him go for true. Where all men—go up.

That's good palaver, George. But why no women make juju with men when cow is killed to make God glad as you say, and to do good to men of Kroo country?—Women mind piccaniny, mind him house, don't know how to mind that thing.

You have alligators in your country?—Yes, plenty in fresh water, but never chop Kroomen.

Do sharks chop Kroomen?—Oh no, sharks never chop Kroomen.

You never hear sharks chop piccaninies when him go into water on beach?—No, sharks can't chop Kroomen. (This belief is universal amongst them, and acted upon too.)

Do tigers chop Kroomen?—Yes, in the bush often catch one man, when tiger chop him and then lies down as asleep; then all the people come out with guns and go into bush to kill tiger; sometimes he fly away, sometimes Kroomen.

Are tiger-cats and panthers in the bush in Kroo country?—Yes, plenty.

Any horses in Kroo country?—No.

Any camels in Kroo country?—No.

Any elephants in Kroo country?—No savy elephants.

On asking another Krooman present, called Tom, on the subject of their belief in a future state, he said, all good people, good and bad, when they were dead went to God. He said there were many devils, some good, some were bad, some did good to men, others did harm; in fact his idea was the general one of his countrymen, that the devils are the deities whom it is necessary to propitiate, both the good and the bad, by an equal homage to their power to heal or hurt, and the idols which they call fetish are images made to represent this idea to their minds.

The above conversation took place in the presence of Captain Brown, of the "May," and Mr. Roberts, the surgeon of that vessel; on reading over the above memorandum of the conversation immediately after it took place, it was considered by both to be literally correct.

Such are the notions of religion of a people the probability of whose association with the recently Christianised negroes of our colonies could not be looked to without apprehension for its result.

(No. 12.)

RETURN of the Number of EMIGRANTS from the Colony of *Sierra Leone*, in the period from the 25th October 1839 to the 30th April 1841, showing the Date of Departure, Name of the Vessel, Master, Agent, &c.

DATE.	Number of Emigrants.	To what Place.	Name of Vessel.	Master.	Agent.	REMARKS.
1839:						
October - 25	21	Badagry, and the Leeward Coast.	Margaret - -	Alexander Swift.		
November 29	14	Ditto - -	Intrepido - -	H. Norquwy.		
1840:						
January - 1	8	Jamaica - -	Mary Brown -	Spiers - -	- - -	- - the vessel belonged to and was named after one of the passengers.
March - 26	68	Badagry, and the Leeward Coast.	Queen Victoria -	G. Darley.		
— - 30	50	Ditto - -	Margaret - -	Faulkoner.		
1841:						
January - 13	120	Ditto - -	Queen Victoria -	Wilkinson.		
April - 8	186	Trinidad - -	Elizabeth & Jane	William Hart -	Wm. Hamilton.	
— - 12	151	Jamaica - -	Hector - -	Robt. Freeman	Alex. Barclay.	
— - 28	175	Demerara -	Superior - -	John Dunning	R. Kingston.	
TOTAL - -	693					

(signed) *N. Macdonald*, Colonial Secretary.

(No. 13.)

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PORT OF *Sierra Leone*.

LIST of EMIGRANT SHIPS that have sailed from this Port to the *West Indies*, with the Number of Passengers on Board.

SHIP'S NAME.	Number of Passengers.	Destination.
Ship Hector - - - - - - -	173	Jamaica.
Brig Barclay - - - - - -	65	Ditto.
Ship Superior - - - - - -	197	Demerara.
Ship Elizabeth & Jane - - - -	177	Trinidad.
	612	

(signed) *Logan Hook*, Collector of Customs.

(A true copy.)

John R. Jeremie.

(No. 14.)

NOTICE TO EMIGRANTS FOR JAMAICA.

To the Maroons, Settler Population, and Liberated Africans of Sierra Leone.

WITH the sanction of his Excellency Sir John Jeremie, Mr. Barclay, as Agent of Emigration for Jamaica, appointed by the Governor, deems it his duty to lay before the people of Sierra Leone the following official documents, that they may fully understand the object of his visit here, and the authority upon which he is acting:—

1. EXTRACT of a Communication from the Governor of *Sierra Leone* to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Copy.)

"AT this moment it likewise happens that many of the Maroons and settler population, having been informed of the encouragement given to immigration in Trinidad and other of

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the West Indies, express the wish and purpose of removing thither with their families; and, in my opinion, nothing ought to be done to discourage their departure. * * * * But I am desirous of knowing from your Lordship what course it would be advisable for me to pursue in the event of any considerable number of liberated Africans being induced, by their example, to decide upon removing likewise to the same part of the world.

"I have, &c.

(signed) "*R. Doherty*, Governor."

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2. COPY of A DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to his Excellency Sir *Charles Metcalfe*, Governor of Jamaica.

(Copy.)

"Sir,

"I TRANSMIT to you enclosed a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Governor of Sierra Leone, reporting the wish which is entertained by many of the Maroons and original settlers of that colony to emigrate to the West Indies; and I have to desire that you will transmit to me any information which you may consider likely to be acceptable to Governor Doherty, in explanation of the advantages which might be placed within the reach of any able-bodied natives of Africa who may be desirous of transferring their labours to Jamaica.

"I have, &c.

(signed) "*J. Russell.*"

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3. MESSAGE from his Excellency the Governor of *Jamaica* to the House of Assembly, 3 November 1840.

(Copy.)

"Mr. Speaker,—I am directed by the Governor to lay before this Honourable House, for information, the accompanying copy of a despatch of the 9th June from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and an extract from a communication from the Governor of Sierra Leone, relating to a prospect of emigration from that colony to the West Indies."

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4. COPY of a REPORT made by a Committee, and agreed to by the House of Assembly, in reference to the above documents.

(Copy.)

"The House recommend that every facility be afforded to further the wishes of any of the Maroon or settler population of Sierra Leone, or able-bodied natives of Africa, who may desire to remove to this island; and that the agent-general of immigrants be directed to communicate with the commissioner-general (Alexander Barclay), authorising him to take such measures as may best tend to carry the above object into effect; and that the agent-general be empowered to defray the necessary expense out of the funds applicable to immigration purposes."

Under the above authority, sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and by the Governor of Jamaica, I have come to Sierra Leone, not only to afford a free passage to all such immigrants as may wish now to go, and as the ship Hector can accommodate, but also to ascertain what the wishes of the people are, in order that such further arrangements as may be necessary to give effect to the same, may be made agreeably to the directions sent me by the House of Assembly. It is necessary, as my stay here will be short, that the people take this matter at once into their consideration, and give me, for my guidance, the names of those who are desirous of going, that I may regulate accordingly, and report the same to the Governor of Jamaica on my arrival there.

The above is addressed more especially to such Maroons or others who may wish to become settlers in Jamaica; and room will be given in the ship for any articles of furniture which such persons may wish to take along with them.

For the guidance of the liberated Africans and others going as labourers, I may mention with respect to terms, as follows:—

A free passage, and on landing to be at perfect liberty to engage themselves in the plantation villages to whomever they like, offering them the best wages.

The engagement to be for only one year, and then terminable by three months' notice given on either side.

They will have perfect freedom to remain in the island, or to leave it and return to Sierra Leone if they wish.

Any of them in want of clothing may have it on board of ship at the London cost, or, by stipulating to pay the same out of their first year's wages, in the island.

The usual rate of farm wages in Jamaica is from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* by the day, or from 2*s.* to 4*s.* may be made working by the piece or job. For more particular information on this and other points, I refer to the accompanying copy of my address to the coloured people of America, which applies equally to those going from Sierra Leone.

(signed) *A. Barclay*,
Commissioner of Immigration for Jamaica.

(No. 15.)

To the Liberated Africans of Waterloo and Regent Town.

YOUR old master can find work for good people and their families, and you can catch plenty of coppers.

Suppose you can follow your old master to Trinidad, he will see you taken care of if you behave good.

At Trinidad you can catch silver money, and a man catches for a day's work:—

Two cut-monies.
Half-pound of salt fish.

And he will have a house and farm, and will catch a little rum every day.

If a man work hard, he can catch four cut-monies in one day.

(signed) *W. Hamilton.*

(No. 16.)

To Emigrants for Demerara.

HER gracious Majesty the Queen, having by Her Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies of Great Britain authorised the emigration of free African labourers to Demerara, where they will be landed unrestricted, and they are at liberty at once to hire themselves to the highest bidder.

In that "magnificent province" they will receive great wages and excellent provisions.

Should they not immediately procure other offers, I hereby guarantee them the following rate of wages:

"TARIFF OF WAGES."

Eight and a half Spanish dollars per month, with comfortable lodgings, and a sufficient extent of garden-ground, medical attendance and medicine.

Tariff of labour for the above wages, seven and a half hours per day.

Or in lieu of the above wages, I will guarantee them at their option—

5½ Spanish dollars per month.
14 pints of rice per week.
3½ lbs. of salt fish or pork.

A small gratuity of rum, tobacco, and pipes, with a comfortable lodging, and sufficient garden-ground, medical attendance and medicine. You will clearly understand, free African labourers, that this scale of wages is binding upon me and my constituents but not on the emigrant. On his arrival at Demerara (British Guiana), he is immediately to be at liberty to dispose of his labour to the highest bidder.

They will, in fact, be transferred to the appropriation and disposal of his Excellency the Governor of Demerara.

Liberated African labourers, free settlers, and others,—I act, and will always act, with rectitude, honestly, and with honesty of purpose towards you; we hold out no delusive hopes, nor expectations, nor offer extravagant wages that cannot be realised.

My friends, the respectable and opulent proprietors and other colonists at Demerara would scorn such a mode of proceeding; we offer you high and regular wages for limited and reasonable hours of labour.

In periods of scarcity of labour, you may gain half a Spanish dollar per diem, as stated in the Trinidad address, or 3*s.* to 4*s.* by piece-work, as offered in the Jamaica address.

I again repeat, you can offer your labour, on landing at Demerara, to the highest bidder perfectly unrestricted; but I guarantee to you the aforesaid scale of wages and provisions, with lodging and garden-ground, medical attendance, &c., for your labour of 7 ½ hours, the time of labour being 10 hours in Sierra Leone.

Demerara (in the governor-generalship of British Guiana) is nearly similar in climate, in all its productions, to Sierra Leone; it is situated in the West Indies, on the continent of South America, and is much the nearest point to Sierra Leone of Her Majesty's possessions and colonies therein.

We promise, and intend to establish a steam-boat communication between the two colonies of Demerara, and Sierra Leone; which will be reciprocally advantageous, and the passage will then be made in 10 days, the average time now employed going to the Gambia, so that you will have constant and immediate opportunities of returning expeditiously and communicating with your friends here; and we shall most particularly encourage, and trust thereby to gain your entire confidence in our endeavours to obtain your honest and industrious labour for a liberal remuneration.

I offer to the liberated Africans located in the towns or villages of Kissy, Wellington, Hastings, Waterloo, Gloucester, Regent, Bathurst, and Charlotte (provided a sufficient number of people of both sexes enter), to convey to Demerara a deputation of their friends, consisting of one from each place, which persons they themselves can select. They can see the country with their own eyes, make their observations, and report to their friends their opinion.

I will send them back at the earliest opportunity, free of all expense.

(signed) *R. Kingston,*
Agent-general of Demerara, British Guiana.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

Appendix (B.) to Dr. *Madden*'s Report.

(No. 3.)

SIERRA LEONE.

QUERIES addressed to Colonel *Jones*, Superintendent Assistant of Liberated Africans at *Sierra Leone*, on the 30th day of April 1841.

HAVE any of these negroes been sent to the West India islands as labourers?—None by the authority of the Government.

What wages does an emancipated negro earn at agricultural labour per day?—From 3*d.* to 4*d.* per day.

How many emancipated negroes are employed in this settlement in agricultural labour?—Few beyond those engaged on a very limited scale on their own account. The colony affords no employment in this species of labour, except for the supplies of the market and Freetown, and to meet the occasional but uncertain demands of the merchants for ginger, arrow-root, or pepper.

If any have been sent to the West Indies, is it known what their condition may be there, or have any of them returned to the settlement?—None have been sent.

Is it probable that any considerable number of them would voluntarily remove from this settlement to the British West Indies?—Until the results of the emigration of this year be known, I think they would not to any considerable number.

If they are at present incapable of forming an opinion of the advantages proposed to them by a removal to our colonies, would it be advisable to propose to a certain number, say 10 or 12, of the most enlightened of them, to visit Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana, and judge from their own experience whether, on their return, they would think themselves justified in recommending their companions to remove to these colonies; and to give the experiment a fair trial, would it not be advisable for Government to bear the expenses of the persons sent on this mission?—This measure has been already anticipated by the emigration companies, and the agents sent here for Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana, have each taken, amongst other emigrants, a few of this class of persons with this view.

Would it be advisable to send negroes newly emancipated to those colonies before they had received instruction here, and were in a condition to understand the object of their removal?—I see no objection to their removal in such a manner, as the opportunities that would be opened to them in the British West Indies of becoming mechanics or prædial labourers are far greater than they are here.

Would it be advisable to remove the newly-emancipated negroes, after they had received instruction here, if they were opposed to removal to our West India colonies?—Certainly not.

Would it be advisable to send any of those emancipated negroes to our colonies, before they had embraced the Christian religion?—Presuming that the facilities for embracing Christianity in the West Indies are equal, if not greater than they are here, I see no objection.

What was the number of Maroons, originally removed from Jamaica and Nova Scotia, carried to this settlement?—Five hundred and fifty.

What is the number now living?—Seventy, exclusive of those recently gone to Jamaica.

Have they had lands to any extent assigned to them?—Lands have been assigned to them, but not to any extent; two or three acres each have been the greatest allotment.

Are these lands still in their possession?—Being about to leave this colony, the Maroons are disposing of their lands.

What is their general character?—They are quiet and orderly, but averse to industry.

Have they expressed any desire to return to Jamaica?—Yes; this desire has never forsaken them since they left Jamaica.

What number of the negroes deported from Barbadoes in 1816 are now alive here?—Thirty-three.

Are they desirous of being removed to Jamaica, and what number of them?—No, their desire is to return to Barbadoes.

What is the number of refugees from Liberia in this settlement?—There were 73 on the 31st December 1840; 30 males and 43 females.

Would they be likely to emigrate to the British West Indies?—I think they would, if the emigration system prove advantageous to the emigrants.

What is the number of Kroomen in this settlement?—Six hundred and fifty-three on the 31st December 1840, exclusive of those employed up the river, and on board of ships of war on the coast.

What occupation do they follow here?—A few are employed as domestic servants and porters in mercantile establishments at Freetown; others as labourers in the timber trade in the rivers; and, with the object of obtaining prize-money, many serve in the capacity of seamen on board the cruisers on the coast. None are engaged in agriculture.

What religion do they profess?—Paganism.

Have any of them become converts to Christianity?—One.

Would any number of them be likely to consent to go to the British West Indies as agricultural labourers?—Not as agricultural labourers; 37 have already emigrated thither to seek employment as common labourers.

What is the proportion of negroes here professing the Mohammedan religion to that of the converts to Christianity?—I am uninformed on this point.

Would

Would it be safe to allow persons not under the control of Government, or unknown to the authorities here, to take charge of the removal of the emancipated negroes from this settlement?—It would not, I conceive.

Is there any law to prevent free negroes in this settlement from being taken on board merchant vessels, with their own free will, in any considerable numbers, for the purpose of conveying them to other British colonies?—None.

If there is not, under what law would the persons in charge of them be amenable for any casualties that might arise from ill-treatment or insufficient accommodation?—The Colonial Passengers' Bill.

Would the recent Colonial Passengers' Bill for regulating the removal of negro labourers from one part of the British dominions to another, afford sufficient protection to the negroes?—I think it would.

Would it be necessary, if emigration from this settlement to our colonies were permitted, to appoint an officer here to superintend the removal of the negroes?—Such an appointment, I am of opinion, would be necessary.

Would it be desirable for the removals to take place on board of vessels sent here for the negroes from the colonies, duly authorized in every case by the governor of the colony to which the negroes were to be removed, or on board of armed vessels dispatched with them from this colony, and the officers of which were amenable to the authorities here for the proper treatment of the negroes?—The former mode of conveyance would be, I conceive, the more desirable.

Would it be advisable in the latter case to charter merchant vessels for this service, or, in either case, to send a serjeant and three or four men of the 1st or 2d West India regiments with the transport, and these men to return either with the transport when chartered at this settlement, or by the first vessel of war destined for this place?—Such a force might be necessary for the preservation of the peace.

If a merchant vessel were chartered for this service at this settlement, for Trinidad, Jamaica, or British Guiana, and the number of negroes to be removed amounted to 200, what would be the expense of removal to each of these colonies, including freight, provision, clothing, medicine, &c. for each negro?—From 7 *l.* to 8 *l.* to British Guiana and Trinidad, and from 8 *l.* to 9 *l.* to Jamaica.

Taking the average of the last three years of the number of negroes emancipated here by the Mixed Commissions, and supposing that, for the three ensuing years, the number liberated would not fall short of those emancipated during the former years, what number of emigrants of this class from this settlement to our colonies might be calculated on for each ensuing year?—I am unable to form any opinion on this subject.

Is there reason to suppose that any considerable number of the natives of the adjoining country might be desirous of emigrating to our colonies, if they were duly informed by intelligent persons of their own colour, long resident here, of what their actual condition would be in our colonies, adequately paid for their labour, and protected there?—I do not think they would without positive proof the certainty of bettering their condition.

Are there negroes of intelligence in this settlement, sufficiently informed of the present condition of prædial labourers in our colonies, and satisfied of the advantages of that condition, to be qualified for the task of affording information on this point to the natives?—No.

If it were thought advisable to diffuse such information among them, would it not be necessary to select men of intelligence, and send them to our colonies, to form their own judgment of the condition of the prædial labourers in those colonies?—Certainly.

(No. 4.)

QUERIES addressed to his Excellency *J. Carr*, Esq. Acting Governor at *Sierra Leone*, &c. &c. on the 30th day of April 1841.

Have any of them expressed a desire to be removed to the West Indies?—I am not aware that any have expressed such a desire, but I think many of them will emigrate to the West Indies from the want of employment in this colony.

Is the number of them here greater than the settlement requires?—I should say not, if agriculture were encouraged.

What wages does an emancipated negro earn at agricultural labour per day?—Threepence or four-pence per day.

How many emancipated negroes are employed in this settlement in agricultural labour?—Very few indeed, with the exception of those employed on their own provision grounds in the villages.

If any have been sent to the West Indies, is it known what their condition may be there, or have any of them returned to the settlement?—None have been sent to the West Indies.

Is it probable that any considerable number of them would voluntarily remove from this settlement to the British West Indies?—I am persuaded that few would be found desirous to remove to the West Indies if employment could be procured in the colony.

If they are at present incapable of forming an opinion of the advantages proposed to them by a removal to our colonies, would it be advisable to propose to a certain number, say 10 or 12, of the most enlightened of them, to visit Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana, and judge from their own experience whether, on their return, they would think

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themselves justified in recommending their companions to remove to these colonies; and to give the experiment a fair trial, would it not be advisable for Government to bear the expenses of the persons sent on this mission?—This would be a very excellent plan.

Would it be advisable to send negroes, newly emancipated, to those colonies before they had received instruction here and were in a condition to understand the object of their removal?—Not against their will; the instruction they receive here almost amounts to nothing.

Would it be advisable to remove the newly-emancipated negroes, after they had received instruction here, if they were opposed to removal to our West India colonies?—I should think not.

Would it be advisable to send any of those emancipated negroes to our colonies before they had embraced the Christian religion?—Christianity might be as easily embraced by them in the West Indies as in this colony.

What was the number of Maroons originally removed from Jamaica and from Nova Scotia carried to this settlement?—Five hundred and fifty Maroons, and 1,131 Nova Scotians.

What is the number now living?—

Have they had lands to any extent assigned to them?—Yes; I believe about three acres each.

Are these lands still in their possession?—Not all; some of these persons have transferred their right to other individuals.

What is their general character?—I should say orderly.

Have they expressed any desire to return to Jamaica?—Yes; some of them went away to Jamaica with Mr. Barclay about a month ago.

What number of the negroes deported from Barbadoes in 1816 are now alive here?—Thirty-three.

Are they desirous of being removed to Jamaica, and what number of them?—They are not.

[I had a memorial sent to me by some of their body, expressing a strong desire to be permitted to return there.—*R. R. M.*]

What is the number of refugees from Liberia in this settlement?—Seventy-three.

Would they be likely to emigrate to the British West Indies?—I should say not.

What is the number of Kroomen in this settlement?—By the census for the year 1840, 570; but this does not include those residing in the factories on this river.

What occupation do they follow here?—They are employed here as porters and house-servants; but they reside here principally with a view of obtaining employment on board vessels engaged in the timber trade.

What religion do they profess?—The great majority are Pagans.

Have any of them become converts to Christianity?—Very few indeed.

Would any number of them be likely to consent to go to the British West Indies as agricultural labourers?—Perhaps some.

Would it be safe to allow persons not under the control of Government, or unknown to the authorities here, to take charge of the removal of the emancipated negroes from this settlement?—I should say that emigration ought to be under the control of Government.

Is there any law to prevent free negroes in this settlement from being taken on board merchant vessels, with their own free will, in any considerable numbers, for the purpose of conveying them to other British colonies?—None; the Passengers' Act, however, has been extended to this colony by a local Act.

If there is not, under what law would the persons in charge of them be amenable for any casualties that might arise from ill-treatment or insufficient accommodation?—*Vide* previous question.

Would the recent "Colonial Passengers' Bill," for regulating the removal of negro labourers from one part of the British dominions to another, afford sufficient protection to the negroes?—It is already in force here.

Would it be necessary, if emigration from this settlement to our colonies were permitted, to appoint an officer here to superintend the removal of the negroes?—Yes, most certainly, one has been appointed.

If a merchant vessel were chartered for this service at this settlement for Trinidad, Jamaica, or British Guiana, and the number of negroes to be removed amounted to 200, what would be the expense of removal to each of these colonies, including freight, provision, clothing, medicine, &c. for each negro?—About 30 dollars.

Taking the average of the last three years of the number of negroes emancipated here by the Mixed Commissions, and supposing that for the three ensuing years the number liberated would not fall short of those emancipated during the former terms, what number of emigrants of this class, from this settlement to our colonies, might be calculated on for each ensuing year?—I cannot positively say, as few vessels are now captured with negroes on board.

Is there reason to suppose that any considerable number of the natives of the adjoining country might be desirous of emigrating to our colonies, if they were duly informed by intelligent persons of their own colour, long resident here, of what their actual condition would be in our colonies, adequately paid for their labour, and protected there?—I think many would.

Are there negroes of intelligence in this settlement sufficiently informed of the present condition of prædial labourers in our colonies, and satisfied of the advantages of that condition,

dition, to be qualified for the task of affording information on this point to the natives?—I think not.

If it were thought advisable to diffuse such information among them, would it not be necessary to select men of intelligence, and send them to our colonies, to form their own judgment of the condition of the prædial labourers in those colonies?—Yes, such a course would be productive of much good.

— No. 34. —

No. 34. Colonel Doherty to Mr. Under Secretary Hope. 27 October 1841.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Colonel *Doherty*, late Governor of *Sierra Leone*, to Mr. Under Secretary *Hope*; dated United Service Club, 27 October 1841.

EMIGRATION.

ON the question of emigration to the West Indies from the African coast generally, Dr. Madden is apprehensive that it never will be effected unless the people are obtained from their chiefs, or at least unless the consent of the chiefs is obtained to their departure by means of presents.

With reference to this subject, I made inquiry before leaving Sierra Leone as to the degree of property possessed by the chiefs in the persons or services of their subjects, and the compensation they would be likely to claim in consequence, in the event of the people emigrating; but the statements made to me were so contradictory, that I could arrive at no conclusion.

The chiefs near Sierra Leone having always shown an earnest desire to have their children and subjects educated, not only in school learning, but in handicrafts and cultivation of the soil, would willingly, I think, consent to a body of their people proceeding to the West Indies to be taught the cultivation of coffee and other tropical productions, on the condition of their return within four or five years. The arrangement would be beneficial both to Africa and the West Indies, and promote, in the former, the views of the association lately formed for the extinction of the slave trade and the civilization of the continent.

The two tribes whose emigration would be likely to prove most advantageous to themselves and their West Indian employers, are the Ackoos and Cossoos; and did Her Majesty's Government deem the trial worth making, I would advise the opening of a communication on the subject, through the liberated Africans of those tribes at Sierra Leone, with the native countries of both, the Cossoo country being but a three days' journey from the colony, while Yarriba, or the country of the Ackoos, is accessible by way of Badagry.

Shortly before I delivered up the government to my successor, and on receipt of Lord John Russell's despatch on this subject of the 10th September 1840, with letters which it enclosed from governors of the West Indies, I sent for the heads of the liberated African tribes, explained to them the views of Government, gave them copies of the West Indian letters, and desired them to go with them among their countrymen and return in a week. They did return, but gave me no reason to suppose that many of the agricultural people were likely to emigrate, though some had declared themselves willing to make a trial, could they be assured of being sent back in the event of their disliking their new country. Several of the head Kroomen, whom I also assembled, said the same thing. But I doubt if Kroomen would be desirable emigrants. My opinion of that tribe is different from what is commonly entertained: they are never to be trusted; they are never converted to Christianity, and would, wherever they went, exhibit a bad example in that particular.

In speaking of emigration from Sierra Leone, Dr. Madden notices the case of one of those parties of liberated Africans who returned from the colony to Badagry, and conjectures that many of them fell back there into slavery. Before I left Sierra Leone, however, two letters were produced to me, purporting to be written from Badagry by individuals of that party, which gave a different account; and I now perceive, in the publication called the Friend of Africa, a further communication from another of them, by name William Fergusson (whose person I perfectly recollect), which is dated at Badagry on the 2d of March, and from which it would appear that they could not have met the fate Dr. Madden apprehends, but must have succeeded in the objects of their voyage.

— No. 35. —

No. 35. Extract of a Report from Sierra Leone.

EXTRACT of a REPORT from the Officer administering the Government of *Sierra Leone* to Lord *Stanley*, dated 30 January 1842.

"EMIGRATION, to a certain extent (not transatlantic, but from place to place along shore), commenced in the latter part of 1839, in the determination of a few liberated Africans who had saved some money to purchase a vessel for the purpose of enabling them to revisit their own countries.

"Transatlantic emigration commenced in April of the present year.

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"Love of country is a remarkable characteristic of African negroe with them and with the Swiss alone, of all the nations of the world, does this feeling at times and under compulsory absence, run into a passion, producing disease by its very excess, and not unfrequently death.

"Commercially speculative and enterprising, a love of change is a prominent feature in their characters; migratory in their desires, especially if, with the exercise of such vagrant habits, there should chance to be associated a probable prospect of gain, they are nevertheless in a great degree deterred from the indulgence of those propensities by the probable occurrence of contingencies restrictive of their ruling passion, viz. a return to their own country.

"The correctness of these opinions has been abundantly developed in the history of our liberated African population during the last three years, to the particulars of which I shall now more especially advert.

"The successful prosecution of a petty trade, combined with the steady observance of great temperance and economy in living, have, in the course of years, raised many of this body to a state of comparative affluence.

"The proposal to revisit their own country was responded to by many congenial spirits; for this purpose, the sum of 150 *l.* was subscribed by three persons for the purchase of a vessel; and on the 1st April 1839, 67 persons embarked in the Queen Victoria on the first exploratory voyage. The professed objects of this voyage were, to determine how far a return to their own country would be compatible with those altered habits and desires which a lengthened observance of European customs, and participation in British privileges, had engendered and rendered familiar to them, and also to determine how far such return might be consistent with their expectations of a continuance of personal freedom.

"The owners of the Queen Victoria were not, however, wholly without views of profit in their experimental trip; the passengers were taken on board at the rate of eight dollars each, so that from this source a sum of 120 *l.* was raised, besides which a considerable amount of freight was also shipped for the purchase of produce on the coast.

"The voyage, both commercially and otherwise, appears to have given much satisfaction to all the parties concerned in it, as not only has the Queen Victoria continued to ply betwixt Sierra Leone and Badagry, but two other vessels, the Wilberforce and Free Grace, all owned by liberated Africans, have been purchased, and are now engaged in the same sort of traffic.

"The gross number of persons who have emigrated in this manner is, as near as can be ascertained, about 500.

"Transatlantic emigration commenced in April 1841, and was for some months carried on with a degree of energy and success that threatened to depopulate the colony. The great advantages of the West Indies were represented in glowing language, plenty of work, wages varying from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* per diem, liberal allowances of food, gratuitous medical attendance and medicine, and no compulsory labour; all these were freely offered, and produced an electrical effect among our population; the public mind was violently agitated, ordinary avocations were neglected, distant visits were paid by persons anxious to canvass with each other the whole merits of the new measure, and its probable results on their future welfare.

"The first vessels obtained their complement of emigrants with astonishing rapidity. The agents had in fact several hundred names enrolled of eager candidates for emigration, for whom no accommodation could be found in the vessels then about to proceed. The chagrin of the disappointed candidates was great, but they were consoled by the assurance that other and early opportunities would be afforded them.

"Meantime there arose in the minds of the more shrewd and calculating, a certain measure of distrust and caution, which prompted them to wait the issue of the first experiment, before resolving on that more extended measure of expatriation, to which, by the eagerness of the emigration agents, they were invited.

"For this purpose they determined to delegate certain persons to proceed with the first emigrant ship to Jamaica, Trinidad, and Demerara, under an express understanding that such delegates were to be taken away free of expense, maintained while absent, and returned to Sierra Leone also free of expense.

"With the issue of this arrangement, entered into with the best motives, and in entire good faith on the part of the West Indian agents, commenced that check to the progress of transatlantic emigration, which has since become final and complete.

"The enthusiasm created in the public mind on the arrival of the first emigrant vessels, subsided rather rapidly after they had sailed; a calm survey of the whole matter induced a general idea that the comforts and advantages of Sierra Leone were not outweighed by the prospects held out by emigration.

"The delegates sent to Demerara returned to this colony in the Superior. They landed in a uniform of fine blue cloth, with scarlet cuff and collar, elegant forage caps, a scarlet waistband, and fine cloth trousers. These adornments proved, in the event, to be a very great mistake; intended, as they no doubt were, to allure emigrants, they had precisely an opposite effect; the scheme partook too much of artifice and delusion.

"It had been arranged by Mr. Barclay, the commissioner-general for emigration for Jamaica, that the Jamaica delegates should be returned to this colony by a small brig in August.

August. The brig, according to promise, left Jamaica in June, but soon thereafter was wrecked. The delegates, in consequence, did not arrive at Sierra Leone until . This, though entirely the effect of accident, had, on the already declining cause of emigration, all the adverse consequences of a deliberate breach of faith.

"Matters were still worse with the delegates to Trinidad.

"Mr. Hamilton, the emigration agent for that island, had formerly resided many years among the liberated Africans of Sierra Leone, by whom he was highly esteemed. Great confidence was reposed in him; and he distinctly promised that the delegates chosen to accompany him to Trinidad should also accompany him on his return to Sierra Leone within a few months. Month after month, however, rolled on without bringing either Mr. Hamilton or his delegates. Mr. Hamilton at last arrived in December; but he came alone, unaccompanied by the delegates; nor have they up to this day returned from Trinidad.

"Accident as well as mismanagement have thus alike contributed, and each in no slight degree, to the overthrow of transatlantic emigration from this place.

"This government did not, in any respect, interfere with the measure of emigration, neither encouraging to it nor dissuading from it those whom it was meant to concern.

"The body of Wesleyan missionaries was supposed, by the emigration agents, to have interfered in dissuading the people from going to the West Indies; I have not been able, however, to ascertain that this charge against that body was well-founded.

"It may be proper, notwithstanding, to mention that the Wesleyans have uniformly expressed a decided preference for emigration coastwise over transatlantic emigration, and that for reasons which appear to be entitled to some respect.

"The great aim and object of missionary labour and enterprize in Western Africa is the civilization and religious improvement of its people. Transatlantic emigration from Sierra Leone, if successful, would necessarily withdraw from Africa, and transfer to the West Indies, a large portion of that people upon whose agency the missionaries had calculated in their endeavour to accomplish the great ends of missionary labour; whereas the voluntary removal of a considerable body of people from Sierra Leone to their own country, who had for several years been habituated to the customs of civilized men, and had participated largely in the privileges of the Christian church, was held to be the opening of a new, a welcome, and unexpected avenue for the extension of that great cause to which they had devoted their lives.

"The force and cogency of these views were enhanced by the fact that the first emigrants to Badagry, soon after their arrival there, addressed to the Wesleyan body a communication, earnestly representing their spiritual wants, and requesting the aid of a Christian missionary.

"The future proceedings of those liberated Africans, who, by removing to Badagry, had thus removed themselves beyond the precincts of British jurisdiction, necessarily became a subject of much anxious concern to this government. A request has accordingly been made to the senior officer of the naval squadron, that such of Her Majesty's cruisers as may be in their neighbourhood may be instructed to pay them an occasional visit, as well to repress any attempt at irregularities that may arise among them, as to impress the surrounding natives with the idea that they are not wholly unprotected and uncared for.

"Although emigration, in the very limited influence which it has as yet exerted on the population of this colony, has, it must be owned, taken away several valuable, industrious, and rising members of the community; yet one of its remarkable effects, or perhaps concomitants, cannot be omitted in this Report, viz. that contemporaneously with its progress, there occurred a sensible and very evident falling off in the number of cases brought for trial at the police court; of this fact I am assured by Mr. M'Cormack, the police magistrate.

"The number of persons who have emigrated from this colony to the West Indies, during the year ended 30th September 1841, has been 1,019, and of those who have emigrated to the Leeward coast during the same period, 150; making a total of 1,169.

Education.

"I may, therefore, only farther remark, that the improvement of the liberated African population is progressive, steady, and sustained, which, with other considerations, already detailed, may serve to account for the apathy with which the measure of transatlantic emigration is now regarded by that people.

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"From all these considerations I am induced respectfully and earnestly to recommend the establishment of a colonial school in Freetown.

* * * * * * *

"Commercial speculations afford a more ready return for property embarked than agricultural speculations, and the opportunities offered by the frequent and extensive sales of prize goods, sufficiently account for the decided preference evinced by the bulk of our population for the former rather than the latter; but a community almost wholly commercial is an anomaly which cannot possibly be of long duration; many failures are therefore to be anticipated as natural results of the artificial system which has been engendered by the immense sales of prize goods, and which their withdrawal will inevitably occasion.

"The probable effects of this change on the population will be, either that the unemployed hands will emigrate, or that, influenced by the *amor patriæ*, they will at length fall back on the too-long neglected practice of agriculture within the colony.

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"If these views are correct, this colony may be regarded as being on the brink of a great moral transition. Advice, remonstrance, and example may alter its current, but cannot direct its course. Should it in the main determine towards agriculture, I shall from that period date the commencement of a great revulsion in favour of this part of Africa.

"It will thus be seen, that though transatlantic emigration, *quoad* its primary causes, is almost completely at an end, the seeds of resuscitation are nevertheless in embryo to a considerable extent.

"From the whole of this desultory and somewhat unconnected detail, it may be gathered that four great principles of action are now open to the choice of this people in relation to their future welfare; viz.

"Externally:—1. Emigration coastwise.
2. Transatlantic emigration.

"Internally:—3. Commercial pursuits.
4. Agricultural pursuits.

"Future similar reports may develope more fully the several results or these various influences in respect of which they (the population) are at present in *transitu*."

REPORTS, &c. on the State of the IMMIGRANTS who have arrived from *Sierra Leone* into *Jamaica*, *British Guiana*, and *Trinidad*.

— No. 36. —

JAMAICA.

EXTRACT from Sir *C. Metcalfe's* Speech to the Legislature of *Jamaica*, on the 26th October 1841.

No. 36. Extract from Sir C. Metcalfe's Speech to the Legislature. 26 October 1841.

THE views of all who take an interest in the general prosperity of the island, are still eagerly directed towards immigration, as the only apparent mode of obtaining such an addition to the labouring population as is requisite for the adequate cultivation of the land, and indispensable for the development of its dormant resources. It is a happy reflection that immigration may take place to any probable extent, without interfering with the benefits possessed by the present inhabitants. You have made most liberal provision to promote this important object. The success of the measures adopted has hitherto been limited, but in some respects valuable. There has been no deficiency of zeal on the part of the officers employed in the carrying of your intentions into effect. The agent-general in the island has exerted himself indefatigably. His report will be laid before you. I have every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the sub-agents, as far as it has come under my observation. The Commissioner deputed to North America and Great Britain, after making such arrangements in these countries as seemed calculated to advance the intended purpose, proceeded to the coast of Africa, and laid the foundation of an emigration of free Africans from Sierra Leone, which promises to be highly beneficial, for there seems to be no doubt that Africans are the most suitable labourers for field cultivation in this climate. Mr. Barclay's Reports will be communicated to you, and will furnish ample evidence of the energy, ability, and judgment with which he has performed the duties of his mission.

— No. 37. —

JAMAICA.

EXTRACTS from Stipendiary Magistrates' Reports as to the state of the Africans from *Sierra Leone*.

No. 37. Extracts from Stipendiary Magistrates' Reports. 1 September 1841.

Golden-grove, St. Thomas-in-the-East, 1 September 1841.

I AM happy in being able to state, what I am sure his Excellency will be glad to learn, that the Africans brought from Sierra Leone by Mr. Barclay are doing remarkably well. There are about 60 of them on two estates in this district; they are very intelligent, and work as much as can reasonably be expected, with the example set them by the independent and indolent Creoles. I consider their civilisation, intelligence, and good conduct is chiefly owing to the zealous exertions of the missionaries at Sierra Leone. I deem it only an act of justice to these good men, thus to bear testimony to the good effects of their praiseworthy exertions. All interested in the prosperity of the island must feel deeply indebted to Mr. Barclay for his indefatigable exertions in opening a source of immigration

immigration which has been so happily began, and from which the greatest benefits will be derived.

I have always been opposed to the immigration of white labourers, at least for the low lands, and every day's experience confirms my opinion more strongly.

I have, &c.

J. M. Higginson, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Thomas M'Cornock*, Custos.

Saint George, 19 October 1841.

In conclusion, I report that it will be impossible to restore this parish to its former state of cultivation, with a saving profit to the proprietary, unless a large addition is made to its labouring population. It is, therefore, earnestly to be hoped that Her Majesty's Government will co-operate with the legislature of this island in promoting importation, and permitting it from all parts of the world. In reference to which, I beg to state, that African labourers appear more suited for that purpose than seemed to me at one time would be the case; for experience has shown that those captured slaves who were brought to Port Antonio, and liberated two or three years ago, have become as industrious and civilised as the Creole Negroes of the island.

I have, &c.

Capt. J. M. Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *A. B. Grossett*, Custos.

Mr. *Abbott*.

Savanna La Mar, 8 June 1841.

I should observe, that on several estates there are also a number of the liberated Africans located upwards of a twelvemonth. They generally are paid the same as the estate negroes, work remarkably well, and give every satisfaction.

Mr. *Fyfe*.

Highgate District, St. Mary, 25 October 1841.

The African immigrant walks at once into the house of a countryman, and for the performance of some slight domestic offices, is admitted as one of the family, till he is properly settled. This is not the case with the European immigrant; he arrives here, a stranger in a strange land, and as he does not possess any of the above advantages, he has his labour brought into unfair competition with those who do, whilst he feels those necessities which compel continuous labour in having no other resource for his daily subsistence. Now were he under these circumstances to receive double the wages of the negro, unused as he is to the climate, and to the indigenous food of the country, he would neither enjoy the same comforts nor the same independence.

— No. 38. —

BRITISH GUIANA.

Extracts from Mr. *Wolseley's* (Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate) Report, transmitted in Governor *Light's* Despatch, 16 July 1841, No. 85.

No. 38.
Extract from Mr. Wolseley's Report.
16 July 1841.

From Belair rode through Plantation Sophia and Leliendaal to Turkeyen, the first estate in my route on which any Sierra Leone emigrants were located; proceeded to the field where the labourers were at work, and found six of these people cutting canes (four men and two women), and a girl, the daughter of one of the women, weeding in the same field. Called them up, and told them that I had been sent by the Governor to see if they were well in health, and satisfied with their treatment. They expressed their thanks in very intelligible English the moment I told them so; and, from a mixture of surprise and pleasure in their countenances, I could easily trace that they were sensible of this proof of his Excellency's protection. The number of Sierra Leone people at first located on this estate was 12, namely, four men, two women, one girl, one boy, and an infant; of whom two men have returned to Sierra Leone to describe to their relatives and friends what in reality are the advantages which this country offers to them comparatively with their own. The wives of these two men were the women whom I found at work in the field; they were quite cheerful and pleased when I told them that their husbands would soon return and bring with them the friends they had left in Free Town. The four men had been regularly in the field since the 7th instant, had performed the same day's work in the same number of hours, and had earned the same wages as the other labourers, namely, five bitts for the tariff punt of canes. The women had only commenced to work the day before I

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

saw them, and on the first day had performed the same task as the men. Finding that they spoke and so well understood English, I had no difficulty in making them fully comprehend the object of my visit; and I am happy to say that to all my inquiries on the subject they expressed themselves quite satisfied with their treatment, and appeared thoroughly to be aware that, although certain situations had been recommended to them in preference to others, they were precisely upon an equality with the other labourers, entitled to the same wages for the same amount of labour, and at liberty to move from one estate to another whenever they felt disposed to do so. I have already said that seven of these people were at work, and that two men had returned to Sierra Leone; the three remaining to be noticed consist of a little boy about six years of age, taken care of about the manager's house, an infant in arms, and their mother, employed as a cook. Finding that this infant had not been vaccinated, I requested the overseer to bring the circumstance to the notice of the doctor. The labourers' cottages on this estate are of the best description; but those intended for the Sierra Leone people were not quite finished, and I found them occupying a building in every respect as good as the manager's house. The children from this property attend the daily school at the Church of England chapel on the Kilby, to which their parents mostly resort on the Sabbath.

From Vryheid's Lust rode on to Plantation Resouvenir, where another party of the Sierra Leone immigrants had recently been located, consisting of 10 men, three women, and a boy of 10 or 11 years of age, of whom one man had returned to Sierra Leone on a similar mission, and in company with the two men already alluded to from Plantation Turkeyen; of the remaining nine men, eight commenced to work in the field on the third day after they came to the estate, and had each earned 7 guilders 10 stivers (10*s.* 5*d.* sterling) per week. The women went to the field the week after the men, but worked indifferently, and were not at work at all when I was there. Upon inquiry, one of the women made her appearance who was evidently with child, and I was informed that the other two had gone to town to make some purchases of wearing apparel, &c. The man not yet alluded to had represented himself as a bricklayer, but was found to be a very indifferent workman, and had gone to town to see the attorney of the estate.

I rode on to the adjoining estate, Annandale, for the purpose of seeing another party of the Africans lately from Sierra Leone, consisting of eight men, one boy, four women, and three small children, whom I found all well and at work, with the exception of the children of course, and three who had a little derangement of the bowels from change of diet. The men went to the field on the third day after they came to the estate, and have each earned three dollars per week, finishing their week's labour by Wednesday afternoon; a practice rather of a novel description, but a popular one with the negroes on this estate, many of whom are landlords at Orange Nassau, anxious to make as much money, and in as short a time as possible: the day of my visit happening to be Wednesday, I saw with my own eyes the labourers in the field on the point of finishing their week's work, and it was then about one o'clock in the afternoon. It is not, however, to be supposed that the manager can at all times indulge them in a system of this kind; it is, however, worthy of remark, that his people never take six days to finish a week's work, seldom five, often but four, and occasionally, as now instanced, three only; clearly showing that the day's task, in which there is but little variety throughout the colony, does not amount to any extraordinary quantum of labour. The African women had earned 4*s.* 8*d.* for their three days' work, they had all good houses, and were apparently quite contented. One of the men originally located here had returned to Sierra Leone, as a delegate, in company with the two already alluded to from Turkeyen and Resouvenir.

From Enterprise proceeded on to Plantation Enmore, the fourth location in my route of the Sierra Leone emigrants. On this estate there are 12 men, two women, and two children, without including one man returned as a delegate to Sierra Leone, who has left his wife on the property. The men were at work, and performing the ordinary day's task by about 12 o'clock, for which they each received six bitts (2*s.* 1*d.*); they were remarkably cheerful, and much at ease with their manager, in whose presence I spoke to them, and appeared, as did their countrymen whom I had previously visited, to appreciate the Governor's kindness in having sent a messenger to inquire into their condition. The two women were employed as washerwomen.

From Bechire proceeded on to Plantation Greenfield, another location of the Sierra Leone emigrants. Here I found six men, three women, two small children, and an infant. The men and women had been working the last two weeks, and earning five bitts per day (say 10*s.* 5*d.* per week), besides which they received a weekly gratuity of 10 pints of rice, 3 lbs. of salt-fish, and 1 lb. of tobacco. They were in good health and spirits; though, in the course of my conversation with them, the women expressed a strong predilection for their own country, where, as they informed me, their employment was selling in the market. They had, however, no objection to this climate; admitted that money was more plentiful here than in "Free Town," and even that the means of obtaining it were not very hard; so that I conclude they will soon be reconciled to the change.

— No. 39. —

BRITISH GUIANA.

(No. 107.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell.*

No. 39. Governor Light to Lord John Russell. 21 August 1841.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 21 August 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit returns for the month of July of the state of the emigrants from Sierra Leone.

Your Lordship will perceive that they are in good health, and are a valuable addition to the labour of the colony; one woman was unfortunately drowned in one of the trenches; a copy of the inquest on the body is annexed to Mr. Lyon's return.

A remark by Mr. Allen on the cause of dissatisfaction at Plantations Lima and Walton Hall in some of the people, produced the correspondence I have the honour to transmit.

Mr. Rose seems to have remedied the evil complained of.

It is essential that the emigrants should not be placed in temporary buildings; if it does not produce dissatisfaction, it causes habits of indifference to comfort and cleanliness, which tend to disease.

Although every pains are taken to prevent location on estates where cottages are not ready for the reception of emigrants, yet it is evident that planters are not scrupulous on that point.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 11 August 1841.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you that there has been this day received from the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which Plantation Lima is situate, a report, of which, so far as relates to Plantation Lima, the following is an extract:—

"None of the Africans on this estate seem satisfied. The dissatisfaction of the Africans on Lima may, perhaps, be chiefly ascribed to there having been no distinct and comfortable means of accommodating them on their arrival. Though cottages are in progress for that purpose, four men and one woman left towards the end of July, with the view of bettering their situation, of whom one man and his wife went to Plantation Reliance, and three men to Bathsheba's Lust, District (G.)

"No blame, however, seems to attach to the manager on this or any other account having reference to these people."

I have, &c.

The Hon. Peter Rose, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

(True Copy.)
H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 11 August 1841.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you that there has been this day received from the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which Plantation Walton Hall is situate, a report, of which, so far as relates to Plantation Walton Hall, the following is an extract:—

"These people (the Africans) are lodged in the sick and school-house, no cottages being ready for their reception. Since this report was made out, two men and women have left Walton Hall for Windsor Castle. The dissatisfaction of the Africans on Walton Hall may, perhaps, be chiefly ascribed to there having been no distinct and comfortable means of accommodating them on their arrival, though cottages are in progress for that purpose."

I have, &c.

James Chapman, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Goverement Secretary.

(True Copy.)
H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Sir, Demerara, Georgetown, 12 August 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge recept of your letter of yesterday's date, containing an extract from a report of the stipendiary magistrate of the district in which Plantation Lima is situate, relating to the Africans on that estate.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

I have to request you will be pleased to inform his Excellency the Governor, that it is my intention to transmit to Mr. Hutson, the manager of Lima, a copy of the extract sent to me, with a request that he will immediately furnish me with a detailed statement of every circumstance which relates to the Africans on Lima, since their location on that property. When I am in possession of the particulars, I will, without loss of time, transmit the same to you for his Excellency's information.

In the meantime I may, however, remark that it appears to me that the stipendiary magistrate is under some mistake as to the cause of dissatisfaction, if any now exists.

With respect to their accommodation, in a letter dated the 28th May, from the manager of Lima, he states, "The Africans have all arrived; they are comfortably lodged in the school-house; I have given Thomas Cole half of the adjoining cottage; I am much pleased with him and the people; they are the sort of immigrants we want; we can repair the old ranges for a hundred more. I have given them all provision-grounds, and have allowed them a day or two to weed and plant them on their own account." Again, on the 13th July, Mr. Hutson writes, "An African came here from Bathsheba's Lust, on Friday last, and was harboured on the estate until Sunday, without my knowledge. He told the Africans that if they would go to Bathsheba's Lust, they would be fed for six months, get a present of clothes, plates, knives, forks, spoons, &c. &c. &c. He succeeded in cramming these people, and abducted five of them in the middle of the night. I regret the absence of Thomas Cole; his presence would have prevented this."

From these abstracts from Mr. Hutson's letters, it would appear that the cause of the people quitting Lima was not occasioned by their having no distinct and comfortable means of accommodating them on their arrival; the real cause appears to have been that assigned in Mr. Hutson's letter of the 13th July.

The building designated the school-house is a large one, raised upon brick pillars with two floors, which has been divided into apartments, and, I believe, has ample accommodation for all the Africans sent to Lima. I am, however, happy to be able to state for his Excellency's information, that three of the Africans arrived in town from Lima on Monday morning; they returned again yesterday morning in the estates' schooner; they appeared to me happy and contented, and expressed to me their anxiety to get back, as they were losing money by remaining in town; they added, that they did not like this large town, Lima was much better.

I shall direct Mr. Hutson to communicate with the stipendiary magistrate (Captain Allen), as it is my wish that he should be made acquainted with all the facts of the case.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Peter Rose.*

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Sir, Georgetown, Demerara, 19 August 1841.

I BEG leave to enclose you copy of a letter which I received last night from Mr. Hutson, the manager of Plantation Lima, in reference to the Africans located on that property, which I request you will be pleased to lay before his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Peter Rose.*

ORDER.

A proprietor will never keep emigrants who cannot place them in cottages. I am glad Mr. Rose has given cottages. The agent-general will be directed to endeavour to prevent any emigrants from going on estates where they are to be lodged as in barracks.

19 August 1841. (signed) *Henry Light.*

(True Copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

My dear Sir, Plantation Lima, 16 August 1841.

I RECEIVED this morning your letter of the 12th instant, with copy of an official communication of same date annexed.

The Africans upon this estate appeared cheerful and contented from the day of their arrival here, on the 27th of May, until about the 10th of June, when an African from Bathsheba's Lust, named Wilson, came upon this estate, and was harboured here for two days. This man completely unsettled the Africans: he told them, that if they would go with him to Bathsheba's Lust, that they would be fed for six months, and get clothes, knives, forks, spoons, and all manner of presents. He spread discord and dissatisfaction among them, and succeeded in enticing away four men and one woman, by names James Peter, Samuel M'Auley, James Carew, James Johnson, and Fanny Johnson, who left this estate on the night of the 12th July. I am confident that these five Africans would have remained, and become permanent labourers upon this estate, if unfair means had not been resorted to; and this would not have occurred had Thomas Cole, the headman, remained upon the estate, instead of returning to Sierra Leone.

I really considered that the 16 Africans were very comfortably lodged on their arrival upon this estate. Seven men, four women, and one boy, were lodged in the building that was formerly a school-house. The accommodation there afforded them was four separate apartments for the four women and their husbands, and the son of one of them; and three separate apartments for the three single men. The remainder of the Africans, viz. one man, his wife, daughter, and a boy, occupied the whole half of a new cottage.

I supplied each of the Africans with a saucepan for cooking, and with provisions for five weeks, gratis. I allotted garden grounds to each, and allowed them a week to cultivate the same: I paid their wages weekly, at the same rate as our other labourers; and I also advanced money to them to buy clothes with.

Captain Allen visited the Africans upon this estate in the beginning of this month. He approved of the cottages, but disliked the plan of the building already alluded to, which he compared to a barrack, and said it would only answer as a receiving-house for immigrants. He recommended me to remove the Africans into cottages, to which I have already attended; and most of the Africans upon this estate are now lodged in cottages that, I think, will stand a comparison with any in this country.

Captain Allen is at present in Pomeroon, which prevents my communicating with him on this subject until he returns to the coast.

I have, &c.

Peter Rose, Esq. (signed) *Henry Hutson.*

RETURN of EMIGRANTS from *Sierra Leone* working as LABOURERS or TRADESMEN in District (E.), County of *Demerara*, this 1st day of August 1841.

NAME.	Age.	Location.	Occupancy.	State of Health.	From what Place or Country.	Remarks as to Lodging, Wages, &c.
Peter Walmer	About 30	Met en Meerzorg	boatman	very good	- - Kingleton in the Kroo country.	- - These Kroomen have been at Meten Meerzorg since their arrival in the colony. They had at first apartments in the upper part of the hospital, but have now two rooms in a cottage. A room has been offered to each, but declined on their part, in my presence, when they expressed perfect satisfaction with the accommodation they possess. Their wages as boatmen are ten dollars per month and rations, but from this date they cease to be boatmen, being under the impression that they can make more money in the field. Their wages in the field are to be five bitts for a task, and at the rate of six bitts for any portion of additional work performed in the same day. They told me that they expected to be able to earn a dollar a day in the field. They seem to be, and expressed themselves to be, perfectly happy and contented.
Seabreeze -	25	„	„	„	„	
Davis - -	25	„	„	„	„	

J. O. Lockhart Mure,
Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, District (E).

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

RETURN of EMIGRANTS from *Sierra Leone*, Located in District (B.), for the Month of July 1841.

NAME.	Age.	Location.	Occupation.	State of Health.	From what Place or Country.	REMARKS as to Lodgings, Wages, &c.
Andrew Hamilton	Ages unknown, but all able effective labourers.	Pl. Turkeyen	field labourer	good	Sierra Leone	They are well lodged, cheerful and contented. They perform the full ordinary task at all sorts of work, except cutting canes; in the former case they are paid five bitts per day, and in the latter case, four bitts for two-thirds of ordinary task, besides full food allowance to the end of July.
William Gurney		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Joe M'Auley		,,	,,	,,	,,	
George Pratt		,,	,,	,,	,,	
James Baker		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Joseph May		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Thomas William		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Mary Young, sen.		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Mary Young, jun.		,,	domestic	,,	,,	
Elizabeth Pratt		,,	field labourer	,,	,,	
Anna Young	14	,,	logie labourer	,,	,,	
T. Pratt, M. Pratt	children - -	- - -	- - -	,,	,,	—
William Dove	Ages unknown. All able effective labourers, except one woman suffering from tetter-worm.	Pl. Annandale	field labourer	,,	,,	Well lodged, and conduct themselves satisfactorily in every respect. They are paid for jobbing, and in buildings, five bitts per day. In field they only perform five days' tasks throughout the week, and are paid at the rate of five bitts per task. They were allowed full food allowance to the 15th of July
Jim Dove		,,	,,	,,	,,	
William Hore		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Thomas Peter		,,	,,	,,	,,	
William Peter		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Thomas Dove		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Andrew Martin		,,	,,	,,	,,	
William Bull		,,	,,	,,	,,	
John More		,,	,,	,,	,,	
John Carrol		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Judy Carrol		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Nancy Mure		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Martha Dove		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Phœbe Dove		,,	,,	,,	,,	
T. Carrol, J. Carrol, W. Dove	children - -	- - -	- - -	,,	,,	—
George Baillie	Ages unknown, but able effective labourers.	Pl. Le Resouvenir	,,	,,	,,	The men on Plantations Le Resouvenir and Montrose perform the full ordinary task, and are paid at the same rate as the estate people, viz. five bitts for ordinary work, and six bitts for cutting canes. The women on Plantation Le Resouvenir have not hitherto been required to work. Full food allowance given on both estates to the end of July.
John Bull		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Thomas Pierre		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Thomas Ben		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Walter Grace		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Pompey Rutledge		,,	jobber	,,	,,	
Thomas Bull		,,	in buildings	,,	,,	
Mary Rutledge		,,	field labourer	,,	,,	
Susanna Pierre		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Nancy Bull		,,	,,	,,	,,	
Jack Andrew	25	Pl. Montrose	,,	,,	,,	All comfortably lodged, and appear happy and contented. A full suit of clothes was given to every emigrant, located in this district, from Sierra Leone.
Jack Purser	36	,,	,,	,,	,,	
Peter Jumbo	24	,,	,,	,,	,,	
Salt Water	22	,,	,,	,,	,,	
Tom Reid	23	,,	,,	,,	,,	
Yellow Will	25	,,	,,	,,	,,	
Tom Toby	33	,,	,,	,,	,,	

(A true Return.)

1 August 1841. *D. Maclennan*, Stipendiary Magistrate.

— No. 40. —

No. 40.
Governor Light to Lord John Russell.
22 September 1841.

BRITISH GUIANA.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *John Russell*.

Arabian Coast, Essequibo,
22 September 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the stipendiary magistrates' returns for the month of August, of the Africans from Sierra Leone.

There is a great inequality in the sexes amongst the first arrivals from Sierra Leone, and of emigrants from the islands, who will not bring their families here till they have had experience of the place. I shall exert myself to prevent the continuance of this inequality.

It is very satisfactory to report the few complaints adjudicated by the magistrates between planters and labourers, and the general health of the newly-arrived Africans from Sierra Leone.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 40.

RETURN of Sierra Leone IMMIGRANTS Located in *British Guiana, this 1st day of September 1841.*

LOCATION.	NUMBER. Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Young Children. Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Deaths.	Number of Sick.	At what Work Employed.	For what Wages.	Have they Provision Grounds; do they Cultivate them?	What Relationship, if any, exists amongst the Africans; Have they formed any permanent Connexion on Estates or Neighbourhood?	GENERAL REMARKS.
Plantation Enmore -	6	2	2	–	–	–	10	No death	none -	general work - -	3 bitts to 8 bitts	- - not cultivating provision-grounds.	- - two married couples, having one child each; no permanent connexion on estate or neighbourhood.	
„ Greenfield -	7	1	2	1	–	–	11	Ditto -	ditto -	ditto - - -	ditto - -	ditto - - -	- - one married couple, having three children; no permanent connexion on estate or neighbourhood.	- - not working steadily, most of them absent 15 days; did not earn more than 4 dollars each in the last month.
„ Turkeyen -	–	–	–	–	–	–	19	Ditto -	- -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - - - - - -	- - the conduct and treatment of these emigrants continue in every way satisfactory; they are comfortably lodged; are paid according to the amount of labour.
„ Annandale -	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	Ditto.						
„ Le Resouvenir	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	Ditto.						
„ Montrose -	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	Ditto.						
„ Thomas -	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	Ditto.						
„ Helena -	14	1	–	2	–	1	18	One -	ditto -	agriculture - -	- - 6 bitts per day, the two girls, 3 bitts.	- - they have provision-grounds, but do not cultivate them.	- - they are a good deal *connected* by the ties of relationship; they have not yet formed any permanent connexions.	
„ Hoff van Aurick	12	5	4	1	–	1	23	None -	2	- - in the field, buildings, &c.	- - from 9 to 4 dollars per month.	- - all have such ground allotted to them, and are partly cultivated.	- - all of the grown-up women are married, with one exception; but they have not formed any connexion with the people of the estate.	
„ Bathsheba Lust	8	3	4	1	–	–	16	None -	1	- - usual work of the estate.	- - 8 to 10 dollars per month, 2 lbs. salt fish.	- - they have, but do not cultivate them.	- - all the women are married; the men have not formed any connexion with the women on the estate.	
„ Sophienburg -	3	–	–	–	–	–	3	None -	none -	- - general work of the estate,	- - 8 to 10 dollars per month, 2 lbs. salt fish.	- - they have provision-grounds, and they cultivate them.	- - they have formed connexions on the estate.	all are happy—in good houses.
„ Hamburg -	8	–	–	–	–	–	8	None -	none -	- - jobbing and field labour.	- - 11 dollars, and fish.	- - they have; do not at present work them.	- - have not as yet formed any connexions on the estate.	
„ Lima - -	4	4	1	–	1	1	11	None -	- -	- - men, field work; women, chiefly about buildings.	- - 4 to 5 bitts; 2 to 3 bitts.	- - grounds given, but partially cultivated as yet.	- - two men married, one man has a child, one woman ditto; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.	all lodged in good cottages.
„ Walton Hall -	4	2	–	–	–	–	6	None -	- -	field work - -	3 to 5 bitts -	ditto - - -	- - two men married; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.	- - the married people lodged in comfortable cottages; two single men in sick house; one of whom joined from plantation Reliance, August 12.
„ Reliance -	10	1	–	–	–	–	11	None -	- -	- - ditto, except one man, a mason.	- - - -	- - - - -	- - one married couple; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.	all lodged in good cottages.
„ Windsor Castle	2	1.	–	–	–	–	3	None -	- -	field work - -	- - - -	- - no grounds as yet applied for.	- - one married couple; no permanent connexion formed as yet on the estate.	- - all lodged in good cottages; these people joined from Walton Hall, Aug. 5.

Taken from the Stipendiary Magistrates' Returns of the 1st September 1841.

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

No. 41.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
22 November 1841.

— No. 41. —

BRITISH GUIANA.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*, dated Demerara, 22 November 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the special Returns of the emigrants from Sierra Leone.

One death only has taken place since the first arrival of the emigrants from Sierra Leone.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in *British Guiana* this 1st November 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	Remarks as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
District A. (Upper) - - -	14	3	1	14	3	–	–	–	–	Remarkably good	-- The same as the native labourers.
District A. (Lower) - - -	7	2	2	7	–	–	–	–	–		
District B. - - - - -	104	37	18	96	27	5	–	–	–		
District C. (on plantations in Town Section).	20	7	7	20	6	–	–	–	–		
District C. (River Section) -	20	6	3	20	6	1	–	–	–		
District D. - - - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		
District E. - - - - -	11	1	–	11	1	–	–	–	–		
District F. - - - - -	1	2	–	1	2	–	–	–	–		
District G. - - - - -	38	9	9	36	6	3	–	–	–		
District H. - - - - -	34	13	4	24	10	–	–	–	–		
District I. - - - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		
District K. - - - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		
District L. - - - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		
District M. - - - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		

A RETURN of the MORTALITY among the *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS since their first arrival in the Colony, 23d May 1841, to the 1st November 1841.

Located at Time of Decease.	Number.	Cause of Death.
Plantation Helena - - - - -	1	Pleurisy.

ENCLOSURE in Governor *Light*'s Despatch, 26 December 1841.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District G. this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	
Plantation—										
Meten Meerzorg - -	11	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	–	-- Excellent; no deaths and no sickness.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in Town Division, District C. (on Estates), this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Thomas - - - -	14	7	6	14	6	–	–	–	–	Very Good - - -	-- 40 to 48 cents for a task in the fields. 56 cents per day when employed in the manufacture of sugar. Lodgings good.
Belair - - - -	7	4	2	7	4	–	–	–	–	-- Good. The state of health of the two children noticed in last month's return has improved.	-- Nearly as above, both with respect to wages and lodging.

K. Heyland, S. M.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District B. this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Montrose - - - -	25	4	1	25	4	–	–	–	–	Very good.	All these emigrants continue to enjoy excellent health, and to give great satisfaction to their employers. They all perform the ordinary tasks, and, in some cases, extra labour, and are paid in proportion to the quantity of work done. In course of last month 16 men, four women, and four children, removed themselves from plantation Cuming's Lodge to other estates, the greater part of them to plantation Chateau-Margo. No influence whatever appears to have been used by any party to induce them to make this change; the reason they assigned for it themselves was, "that they could perform the task in Chateau-Margo with more ease, and in a shorter time, than they could do on Cuming's Lodge." With this exception, and a few individual removals, the Sierra Leone emigrants have remained very steadily on the estates upon which they were originally located in this district.
Le Resouvenir - - -	7	3	1	7	3	1	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Chateau-Margo - -	19	8	4	19	7	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Cuming's Lodge - -	1	3	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Turkeyen - - - -	13	7	2	13	7	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Industry - - - -	1	1	3	1	1	2	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Ogle - - - -	21	8	5	21	6	2	–	–	–	Ditto.	

(A true Return.)

Don. Maclennan, S. M.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District C. (Upper Division), this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Peter's Hall - - -	13	5	3	13	5	1	–	–	–	On both these estates these emigrants enjoy very good health, and appear happy and contented.	They earn from one-third to half a dollar per day for an easy day's labour; they are very comfortably lodged, agree very well with the other labourers on the estate, and make no complaints.
Rome and Houston - -	4	1	–	–	4	1	–	–	–		

Thos. Coleman, S. M.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District A. (Lower Section), this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Enmore - - - -	13	3	2	13	–	–	–	–	–	Very good - - - -	-- Earn from one guilder to six bitts, and work very steadily.
Greenfield - - - -	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	Very good - - - -	-- Has earned during past month six bitts per day.

J. Macleod, S. M.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District A. (Upper Division), this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Helena - - - -	14	1	3	14	1	2	–	–	–	Very good - - - -	- - The wages of the men are 50 cents per diem; that of the women a guilder; and of the children two bitts. They are extremely well lodged, and have good provision-grounds.

George Ball, S. M.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District F. this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Bank Hall - - -	1	2	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	- - These emigrants are enjoying excellent health.	- - These emigrants have a cottage, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. Their monthly wages generally amount to 14 dollars.
Maryville - - -	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	- - These emigrants are very healthy.	- - These people are employed on board the estate's schooner. They receive 12 dollars a month, and are found in provisions.

Walter Howard Ware, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District G. this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Hoff Van Aurist - -	7	3	11	7	3	10	–	–	–	- - Very good; a few have complained a little. At present all in good health.	- - From 3 to 7 dollars per month; and it being their first month, have received allowances. With regard to houses, they have been located with the estate's people at present, by their own wish. They speak very little English.
Bathsheba Lust - -	6	6	8	6	4	7	–	–	–	- - The general state of their health is very good.	- Wages from 4 to 6 dollars per month, located in the new cottages; and the children with the head people of the estate. Not one of these Africans can speak a word of English, and the want of a proper person to act as interpreter is very much required.
Huist Dieren - - -	10	5	4	7	4	4	–	–	–	- - Very good; a few complained a little. At present all in fine health.	- From 3 to 7 dollars per month, with allowances; located with the estate's people. These Africans speak very little English, and also require an interpreter.

A. M. Lyons, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District G. this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Sophienberg - - -	14	5	9	12	–	3	1	–	–	- - Healthy. The man that died came on the estate in a declining state of health; was attended by three medical men, and died from debility, arising from a white swelling in the leg.	- - men, on the average, earn 8 dollars per month; children, 4 dollars; besides the usual allowance (on this estate) of 2 lbs. of salt fish and 7 lbs. of rice weekly. The women have retired from field labour. The houses are very good, equal to any in the colony.
Hamburgh - - -	19	1	–	19	1	–	–	–	–	Their health is very good -	- - wages, from 11 to 13 dollars per month, with a weekly allowance of 3 lbs. of salt fish and 10 lbs. of rice. Their houses are excellent, quite new; the only thing they told me was wanting, as they were very happy, not having their wives with them. This, of course, I could not supply.

A. M. Lyons, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District H. this 1st December 1841.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last *Month*.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Reliance - - - -	14	2	1	10	2	–	–	–	–	Very good - - - -	- - well lodged in cottages; earn about 5 bitts daily. One man joined last month from Lima.
Lima - - - - -	13	7	2	11	4	–	–	–	–	Ditto - - - - -	- - lodged in cottages; men earn about 2½ dollars weekly, and women 2 dollars. One man left for Reliance. One man, one woman, and one child, left for Walton Hall.
Walton Hall - -	7	4	1	7	4	–	–	–	–	Ditto - - - - -	- - lodged partly in cottages, partly in sick-house; average amount of wages earned, when at work, 5 bitts daily. One man, one woman, one child, joined from Lima last month.

Ja. Allen, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District H. this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Reliance - - - -	14	2	1	10	2	–	–	–	–	Good - - - -	- - no change whatever has taken place with regard to the condition of these people, as reported during the last two months.
Lima - - - - -	13	6	2	7	3	–	–	–	–	Ditto - - - -	- ditto.
Walton Hall - - -	7	5	1	7	5	–	–	–	–	Ditto - - - -	- ditto.

Ja. Allen, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Sierra Leone EMIGRANTS, 1st January 1842.

PRESENT LOCATION.	Number.	Mortality last Month.
District Upper - - (A.) - - -	18	- None.
„ Lower - - (A.) - - -	17	- „
„ - - - - - - (B.) - - -	140	- „
„ Town Section (C.) - - -	43	- „
„ River „ (C.) - - -	- - -	- „
„ - - - - - - (E.) - - -	11	- „
„ - - - - - - (F.) - - -	5	- „
„ - - - - - - (G.) - - -	48	- „
„ - - - - - - (H.) - - -	51	- „

There has scarcely been any sickness among these emigrants since their arrival. The above are on plantations; any that may be employed in the towns and villages are not included.

RETURN of EMIGRANTS Arrived during the Year 1841, to whom a Free Passage was granted by the Colonial Legislature of *British Guiana*.

Whence Emigrating.	14 Years and upwards.		Between 7 and 14.		Children under 7.		Total.	Deaths on the Voyage.				Births on the Voyage.			Number of Agricultural Labourers.	No. of Shepherds.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		14 Years and upwards.	Between 7 and 14.	Under 7.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		
Madeira - -	1,323	1,170	458	468	465	413	4,297	2	1	15	18	3	2	5	2,393	–
West India Islands -	1,692	638	116	79	120	100	2,745	- -	- -	–	–	–	–	–	1,515	–
Sierra Leone - -	277	94	6	7	22	18	424	1	- -	–	1	–	–	–	295	–
Rio de Janeiro -	88	57	84	70	–	–	299	- -	- -	–	–	–	–	–	145	–
„	--landed at the port of Berbice (the classification of whom is not yet completed), 232 males and 147 females - - -						379	- -	- -	–	–	–	–	–	About 180	–
TOTAL - -	3,380	1,959	664	624	607	531	8,144	3	1	15	19	3	2	5	4,428	–

Number of Domestic Servants.			Number of Mechanics engaged in erecting Buildings, or in obtaining or preparing Building Materials.	Number of Tradesmen preparing or selling Articles of Food.	Number of Tradespeople engaged in making Articles of Clothing.			Number of other Mechanics, &c. not included in the foregoing Columns.	Amount per Head of Emigrant Tax.	Gross Amount of Emigrant Tax received during the Year.	REMARKS.
M.	F.	Total.			M.	F.	Total.				
–	–	–	- - -	100	–	–	–	- -	- -	- -	- - in the computation of agricultural labourers, adults only have been taken into account, although there are many of those between the ages of 7 and 14 years who are very useful, and perform various sorts of light work on estates.
195	283	478	234	20	–	–	–	83	—	—	
–	–	–	25	- -	–	–	–	50 boatmen	—	—	
- captured Africans, without any particular trade or calling.			—	—	–	–	–	—	—	—	
			—	—	–	–	–	—	—	—	
195	283	478	259	120	–	–	–	133	—	—	

Total Males - - 4,883
Do. Females - - 3,261

Grand Total - - 8,144 Arrived, from the 18th February to the 31st December (both inclusive) 1841.

British Guiana, 19 January 1842.

James Hackett,
Agent-General for Immigration.

MONTHLY RETURN of *African* (*Sierra Leone*) EMIGRANTS on Estates in Town Division, District C. this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Thomas - - - -	14	6	6	14	5	–	–	–	–	Good - - - -	- - wages from 5 to 6 bitts per day; average earnings, 10 dollars per month for each labourer. Lodgings unexceptionable.
Belair - - - -	11	4	2	11	3	–	–	–	–	Healthy - - - -	wages as above; lodgings good.

K. Heyland, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District E. this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Meten Meerzorg - -	11	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	Excellent - - - -	- - they are paid at the same rate as the other labourers on the estate, and their lodgings are good. One man has not worked during the last month, but has not been sick.

J. O. Lockhart Mure, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District F. this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Bank Hall - - -	1	2	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	- - These emigrants are very healthy.	- - these emigrants are accommodated in a comfortable cottage, and they earn generally 12 dollars per month.
Maryville - - -	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	These emigrants are healthy	- - employed as boatmen; wages 10 dollars per month, and found in provisions.

Walter Howard Ware, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District G. this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Hamburgh - - -	19	1	–	19	1	–	–	–	–	- - Very good, having been quite free from any sickness.	- - from 11 to 14 dollars per month, with a weekly allowance of 3 lbs. of fish and 10 lbs. of rice. Their houses are excellent.
Sophienburg - - -	14	5	9	12	–	3	–	–	–	- - Very good; not having experienced any indisposition.	- - wages 8 dollars per month, the women have retired from field-labour; children 4 dollars, with 2 lbs. of salt fish and 7 lbs. of rice.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District A. (Upper Division), this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Helena - - - -	14	2	2	14	2	2	–	–	–	Very good - - -	- - they are extremely well lodged, and their wages are—men 50 cents, women 33, children 17.

George Hall, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District A. (Lower Section), this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Greenfield - - -	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	Very good - - -	from 33 to 50 cents.
Enmore - - - -	11	3	2	11	–	–	–	–	–	Ditto - - - -	- - earn from 33 to 50 cents. Lodgings excellent; work steadily.

J. Macleod, Stipendiary Magistrate.

MONTHLY RETURN of *Sierra Leone* EMIGRANTS in District B. this 1st January 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
Plantation—											
Montrose - - -	25	4	1	25	4	–	–	–	–	Very good.	All the emigrants continue in the enjoyment of good health, and in giving satisfaction to their employers; they are well lodged, and paid according to the amount of labour performed, and earn as much as the other estates' labourers. They became more unsettled on some estates, during the last month, than they had hitherto been, and have expressed great dissatisfaction at the proposed general reduction of wages.
Le Resouvenir - - -	6	3	1	6	3	1	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Chateau-margo - -	14	4	4	14	4	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Cuming's Lodge - -	23	9	2	23	6	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Turkeyen - - -	4	4	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Industry - - - -	1	1	3	1	1	2	–	–	–	Ditto.	
Ogle - - - -	18	8	5	18	8	–	–	–	–	Ditto.	

D. Maclennan, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

— No. 42. —

TRINIDAD.

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Henry Macleod* to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 42. Governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord Stanley. 14 February 1842.

My Lord, Trinidad, 14 February 1842.

PURSUANT to the intimation conveyed in my despatch to your Lordship, No. 37, of the 27th of January, and my determination to judge, from actual inspection, of the condition of the emigrants from Sierra Leone, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have since visited the districts where these people are located, and I have subsequently seen the majority of those who are employed in the town of Port of Spain, and on the neighbouring properties.

With few exceptions, I learnt that they had not continued steadily with the employers with whom they had commenced, but that many had returned to their first places of abode, after a trial of others. I found the smallest rate of money wages received by them was 1*s.* 8*d.* sterling for a task, two of which the greatest number easily performed, and in two or three instances certificates were produced to me of their having done three. They were all in possession of comfortable houses, rent free, and some few who had remained more settled had good provision grounds. On several estates medical attendance was likewise given.

They were unanimous in saying that the agent, Mr. Hamilton, had promised that at least six of them should be sent back as delegates, and that upon the faith of this they were mostly induced to come. I find also from other sources that this was the case, and I trust your Lordship will agree with me as to the absolute necessity of keeping faith with these people.

I am given to understand that the same difficulties are thrown in the way of persons leaving Sierra Leone as are practised in the Islands here; among other reports circulated, it was stated, that when once the emigrants landed in Trinidad, they would not be allowed to leave; and indeed, it was even held out to them, that they would not improve their condition by a removal to this colony. When, however, your Lordship is informed that 4 *d.* a day is the utmost a labourer can earn in Sierra Leone, and that here the least industrious can obtain 20 *d.* a day, with house and grounds rent free, it would require the utmost stretch of imagination to uphold such an idea.

Statements such as these must, of course, tend much to check emigration.

Determined, therefore, that by no possibility should it be thought that they had been persuaded to quit Sierra Leone on false promises, I have chartered a ship to go from hence to that colony with the promised delegates, and to bring back those who may wish to return, even should no more immigrants offer.

Your Lordship is already aware that Mr. Hamilton, the agent for this colony, left Sierra Leone a few days after his arrival there, and has appointed, I am told, a Mr. Kidd, a merchant, to act for him. I do not know by what authority Mr. Hamilton could presume to delegate his duties to any other person; but I must request that your Lordship will be good enough to direct that no pay be issued to either of these gentlemen; for, conceiving it of the utmost importance that some person in whom I had perfect confidence should accompany the delegates from hence, I have selected for this purpose Mr. David, a stipendiary magistrate, whose perfect impartiality no one can doubt, and I have ventured to promise that the salary fixed for the agent of this colony at Sierra Leone should be paid to him while absent on this duty.

I should not have chosen a gentleman holding the situation of a stipendiary magistrate, but that Mr. David had been recommended a sea voyage by his medical attendant for the benefit of his health, and I was glad to avail myself of the services of an intelligent and unbiassed person.

It may be necessary to remark, that the expenses to be incurred will amount to 350 *l.* sterling, exclusive of the agent's salary, and considering that the urgency of the case admits of no delay, I look with confidence to your Lordship's sanction of the measure I have thought it right to undertake.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Macleod*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

P. S.—I have omitted to mention, that since the date of my despatch, No. 37 (page 577), two other vessels have arrived from Sierra Leone without immigrants, and their failure attributed to the same causes. This, I trust, your Lordship will think has rendered the measure I have adopted the more necessary.

H. M.

APPENDIX.

Appendix I.

Emigration from the Western Coast of Africa to the West Indies.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.—Immigration Act (11 December 1840) - - - - - - - - p. 618

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 2.—Immigration Ordinance (18 January 1841) - - - - - - - p. 624
No. 3.—Governor Light's Proclamation, with Regulations under which Immigrants from Sierra Leone are to be admitted - - - - - - - - p. 628
No. 4.—Order in Council (27 April 1842), with amendments to be made in Immigration Ordinance, or the Ordinance to be disallowed - - - - - - p. 630

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.—Order in Council, dated 30 September 1839, approving Immigration Ordinance, with amendments - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 631
No. 6.—Order in Council, dated 8 December 1840, sanctioning the admission of Immigrants from Sierra Leone - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 635
No. 7.—Order in Council, dated 6 October 1841, modifying the proportion of the sexes of the Immigrants from Sierra Leone - - - - - - - - p. 635

No. 1.

JAMAICA.

(No. 3382.) **CAP. XXIII.**

4 Vict. c. 23.

AN ACT to repeal and amend an Act, entitled "An Act to encourage Immigration."—[11th December 1840.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and enlarge the provisions of an Act, entitled "An Act to encourage Immigration:" Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this island, that from and after the passing of this Act, the said recited Act be, and stand repealed: And whereas it is expedient, for the continued cultivation of this island, that provision should be made for increasing the labouring population thereof; Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly of this your Majesty's island of Jamaica, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor for the time being, from time to time to nominate and appoint such person as he shall see fit, as agent-general of immigrants, and who shall be paid an annual salary of 1,000 *l.* sterling, which the receiver-general is hereby authorized to pay by four quarterly payments.

Governor empowered to nominate an agent-general.

Sub-agents to be nominated by governor for respective parishes.

2. And be it further enacted, that the Governor, or person exercising the functions of governor, is hereby authorized to appoint, in the respective parishes of this island, according as the exigencies of this Act shall require, one or more sub-agents, under the direction and control of the said agent-general, with full power to the Governor, from time to time, to dismiss such sub-agents, and appoint others in their room, if he shall think proper, with power to allow to such sub-agents such remuneration as he may deem fit, on representation by the agent-general of the services performed.

How persons desirous of locating immigrants are to proceed.

3. And be it further enacted, that any person or persons who may be desirous of locating immigrants, under the provisions of this Act, on any property, may and shall make application to one of the sub-agents hereinbefore mentioned, fully setting forth, in writing, proposals for the situation of such intended location, and the number and description of the immigrants required, the nature of the labour to be performed, the rate of wages, with any advantages, such as the use of provision grounds, medical attendance, with all other particulars, and every such application, with the above particulars, shall be by them transmitted to the said agent-general, to be by him transmitted to the several agents, hereinafter provided, in the several places or ports from whence emigrants are to be shipped, for their information and guidance.

Governor empowered to nominate commissioner to engage emigrants.

4. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor to nominate and appoint a commissioner, to proceed to the United States of America, and thence to Great Britain, or elsewhere, for the purpose of carrying into effect the object of this Act, by making all necessary inquiries as to the description of people most likely to suit the colony, and appointing agents for contracting with, and embarking emigrants under the provisions of this Act.

Governor to name places whence labourers are not entitled to the advantages of this Act.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor to name the several ports and places from whence labourers coming to this island shall not be entitled to the benefit of this Act.

In case of commissioner neglecting to name an

6. And be it further enacted, that at any port or place from time to time selected by the Governor, it shall be lawful, in case the commissioner hereinbefore provided shall not have appointed such agent, for the Governor to appoint some fit and proper person as an agent, for the purpose of facilitating the immigration of labourers into this island, and to allow

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to such agents, and likewise to the commissioner hereinbefore provided, such remuneration (to be paid by the agent-general) as to the Governor may seem reasonable: provided always, that such remuneration shall not in any case be given merely in proportion to the number of emigrants sent to this island by any such agent.

agent at any port selected, governor to name one. Proviso.

7. And be it further enacted, that the agent-general shall find good and sufficient security faithfully and justly to discharge the duties of his office; such security to be approved of by the Governor, and to be to the amount of twelve thousand pounds sterling.

Agent-general to give security for 12,000 *l.* sterling.

8. And be it enacted, that such agent shall ascertain, by personal communication with every emigrant previous to his or her embarkation from the port or place for which such agent shall have been appointed, that such emigrant has not been induced to emigrate by any fraud, or false or unreasonable representation, and is aware of the distance of this island from the place whither he or she is about to emigrate, and the difficulty of return; and such agent shall explain the real advantages likely to be derived by such emigrant from a removal to this island, at the same time cautioning such emigrant against unreasonable and unwarranted expectations; and such agent shall also ascertain that every such emigrant is in good health, and not incapacitated for labour by old age, infirmity or disease.

Duty of agent-general.

9. And be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful to ship on board of any ship or vessel carrying emigrants to this island, any number of passengers exceeding the proportion of three persons for every five tons (old measurement) of the registered burden of such ship or vessel, the master and crew being included in and forming a part of such prescribed number; and that no ship or vessel carrying emigrants, and having more than one deck, shall have less than the height of five feet and a half at the least between decks; and in case such ship or vessel shall have only one deck, a platform shall be laid beneath such deck, in such manner as to afford a space of the height of five feet and a half at the least, and that no such ship or vessel shall have more than two tiers of berths, and that no such ship or vessel having two tiers of berths shall carry passengers on any such voyage to this island, unless there shall be an interval of six inches at the least between the deck or platform and the floor of the lower tier throughout the whole extent thereof; and whatever may be the tonnage of the ship or vessel, no greater number of passengers shall be taken on board such ship or vessel than shall be after the rate of one such person for every 10 superficial feet of the lower deck or platform, in case the length of the voyage, as hereinafter computed, shall not exceed the period of 10 weeks, or after the rate of one such person for every 15 superficial feet of such lower deck or platform; if the computed length shall exceed 10 weeks, such platform or deck to be unoccupied by goods or stores not being the personal baggage of such persons.

Regulations for vessels employed to bring emigrants.

10. And be it further enacted, that in the computation of the number of passengers within the meaning of this Act, two children, each being under the age of 14 years, or three children, each being under the age of three years, shall in all cases be computed as one person only; and that children under the age of 12 months shall not be included in such computation.

How children are to be computed.

11. And be it further enacted, that there shall be actually laden and on board of every ship or vessel bringing emigrants to this island, at the time of the departure of such ship or vessel from the port or place at which such labourers shall be embarked, good and wholesome provisions for the use and consumption of the said passengers, over and above the victualling of the crew, to the amount or in the proportion following; that is to say, a supply of pure water, to the amount of five gallons to every week of the computed voyage, for every passenger on board such ship or vessel; such water to be carried in tanks or sweet casks; and a supply of bread, biscuit, oatmeal, or bread stuffs, to the amount of seven pounds' weight to every week of the computed voyage, for every such passenger: provided always, that when any such ship or vessel shall be destined to call at a port or place in the course of her voyage, for the purpose of filling up her water-casks, a supply of water at the rate before mentioned for every week of an average voyage to such port or place of calling, shall be deemed to be a compliance with this Act.

Provision for the quantity of water, food, &c. to be laid in by vessels carrying emigrants.

Proviso.

12. And be it further enacted, that the number of weeks deemed to be necessary for the voyage of any such ship or vessel to the island of Jamaica shall be determined by the following rate of computation; that is to say, for a voyage from the United States of America, five weeks; for a voyage from the British possessions in North America, six weeks; for a voyage from the Coast of Africa, north of Cape Palmas, seven weeks, and south of Cape Palmas, 11 weeks; for a voyage from Malta or other port or place in the Mediterranean, nine weeks; from any port of Great Britain or Ireland, nine weeks; and from any place to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, 21 weeks.

Time deemed necessary to accomplish voyage to Jamaica.

13. And be it further enacted, that before any such ship or vessel shall be cleared out on any such voyage, the agent appointed under this Act, for the port or place from which such ship or vessel shall be cleared out, shall survey, or cause to be surveyed by some competent person, the provisions and water hereinbefore required to be on board for the consumption of the passengers, and shall ascertain that the same are in good and sweet condition; and also that, over and above the same, there is on board an ample supply of water and stores for the victualling of the crew of the ship or vessel, and shall also ascertain that such ship or vessel is generally reputed seaworthy, and that the directions

Provisions, &c. to be surveyed previous to vessel clearing out.

Appendix I.

hereinbefore contained, for securing the health and safety of the passengers, have been complied with, and shall grant a certificate thereof, under his hand, to the master of such ship or vessel.

Master of vessel bound to supply emigrants and families with proper provision during the voyage, and 48 hours after the arrival of the vessel here.

14. And be it further enacted, that the master of every ship or vessel bringing emigrants to this island, shall be bound to provide for and furnish to every such emigrant and his wife and children a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome provisions for his, her, and their daily maintenance during such voyage, and during the space of 48 hours next after the arrival of such ship or vessel in this island, unless in any case it shall have been expressly stipulated and agreed between any such emigrant and the master of such ship or vessel, that such emigrant, his wife, and children shall not be entitled to such maintenance.

Two authenticated copies of this Act to be delivered by agent to captain of vessel.

15. And be it further enacted, that two copies of this Act, authenticated by the signature of the agent at the port or place from whence such emigrant shall come, shall be delivered to the master, on demand, by such agent, at the time of clearance, and shall be kept on board of every ship or vessel carrying such emigrants as aforesaid; and that one of such copies shall, upon request made at seasonable times to the master of the ship or vessel, be produced to any passenger for his perusal.

Captain must produce Act when called on by passengers.

Directions for the captain of vessel, previous to clearing out from port, and on his arrival in this island.

16. And be it further enacted, that the master of every ship or vessel carrying emigrants to this colony shall, before clearing out such ship or vessel, deliver to such agent, at the port or place at which such ship or vessel shall be cleared out, a list in writing, together with a duplicate of the same, specifying as accurately as may be the names, ages, and occupations of all and every the emigrants on board such ship or vessel; and such agent shall thereupon deliver to the said master a counterpart of such list, signed by such agent; and the said master shall, on the arrival of such ship or vessel in this island, and previous to the disembarkation of any such emigrants, give notice of the arrival of such ship or vessel, and deliver the said counterpart of such list to such agent-general or sub-agent of immigration; and such agent-general or sub-agent shall forthwith proceed on board of such ship or vessel, and shall ascertain as far as possible, by personal inspection of the ship or vessel and passengers, whether the directions hereinbefore contained with regard to the situation of the berth of such ship or vessel, the proportion of the passengers to the burden and measurement of such ship or vessel, and the maintenance of the emigrants during such passage, have been complied with; and such agent-general or sub-agent shall personally muster such emigrants, and compare the number and names of such emigrants with the counterpart of such lists, and shall certify in writing under his hand upon such counterpart the total number of emigrants then living and being on board of such vessel; and in case any such emigrant shall have died during the passage, or the number or names of the emigrants shall differ from the number or names stated in such counterpart, the agent-general or sub-agent shall note such death or difference upon such counterpart, and thereupon shall grant a licence under his hand for the disembarkation and landing of such emigrants.

Directions to agents.

Receiver-general to pay such sums as agent shall certify.

17. And be it further enacted, that if the agent-general or sub-agent, on such personal inspection of the ship or vessel and emigrants, shall be satisfied that the provisions of this Act have been complied with, he shall grant a certificate, under his hand, of the arrival in this island of such emigrants respectively, and the place from which, and the ship or vessel in which such emigrants shall have arrived, and the sums of money payable in respect of emigrants; and such sums shall be paid by the receiver-general, on the warrant of such agent-general.

Agent to make annual report of sums so paid, and submit them to governor, &c.

18. And be it further enacted, that such agent-general shall keep a register of all persons in respect of whom any such certificate as aforesaid shall be granted, and of the ship or vessel in which, the port from which, and the time at which such persons shall have arrived in this island, which registry shall be made up to the 30th day of September in each year, and copies thereof laid before the Governor, Council, and House of Assembly, at their first meeting.

Penalty on masters of vessels infringing this Act.

19. And be it enacted, that if any such ship or vessel bringing emigrants to this island shall carry any number of passengers exceeding, by more than one person in 50, the proportion authorised and allowed by this Act, or if such ship or vessel shall not be of the height between decks hereinbefore required, or if such a platform as hereinbefore directed shall not be laid and continued throughout the whole duration of any such voyage, in such manner as is hereinbefore required, or if there shall be more than two tiers of berths, or if there shall not be throughout the whole duration of any such voyage such an interval as is hereinbefore prescribed between the deck and the floor of the lower tier of berths, or if any such ship or vessel shall clear out and put to sea, not having on board such water and provisions as aforesaid for the use and consumption of the passengers, of the kind and to the amount, and in the proportion hereinbefore directed, or if any such ship or vessel shall be cleared out before such lists of emigrants shall have been delivered in manner and form aforesaid, or if any such list shall be wilfully false, or if the copy of this Act be not produced as hereinbefore required, or if any emigrant shall be maltreated or shall not be maintained during such voyage and for 48 hours after his arrival (except in the case of a special agreement to the contrary), the master of any such ship or vessel shall, for and in respect of each and every such offence, be liable,

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on summary conviction before any two Justices of the Peace in this island, at any time within the space of 12 calendar months next after the arrival of such master within this island, to the payment of a fine not less than 5 *l.* nor more than 20 *l.* sterling; and in default of payment of such fine, either immediately or at the time fixed by such Justices at the time of making such conviction, to imprisonment in the house of correction of such parish in which the conviction shall have taken place, for any time not less than one nor more than three calendar months.

Information must be laid within 12 months.

20. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall take away or abridge any right of suit or action which may accrue to any emigrant in any such ship or vessel, or to any other person, in respect of the breach or non-performance of any contract made or entered into between or on the behalf of any such emigrant or other person and the master, owner, or owners of any such ship or vessel.

Emigrant not debarred right of suit arising legally.

21. And be it enacted, that where any act, matter, or thing is by this Act directed to be done or performed by, to, or with the agent at any port or place, the same, in case there shall be no such agent, or such agent shall be absent or incapable to act, shall or may be done or performed by the Governor or Lieutenant-governor, or any person appointed for the purpose; by the Governor or Lieutenant-governor of the port or place, if the same shall be a British possession, or by the British Consul or Vice-consul of the port or place, if the same shall not be a British possession from whence such ship or vessel shall be cleared out.

Governor, &c. of British possessions, and Consul at foreign station, authorized to act in case of there being no agent, &c.

22. And be it further enacted, that nothing in this Act contained, in respect of the proportion to be observed between the number of passengers and the registered burden of such ship or vessel, or in respect to the situation of the berths of such ship or vessel, or to the superficial measurement of the deck or platform of such ship or vessel, or to the provisions to be laden on board of such ship or vessel, or with respect to the counterpart of the list to be certified on the certificates to be granted at the port or place of embarkation, shall extend to any ship or vessel carrying emigrants to this island, in case where the number of persons shall not exceed the number of one person for every five tons (old measurement) of the registered burden of such ship or vessel, or to any case where the number of emigrants arriving in any ship or vessel at one and the same time shall not exceed the number of 12, or to any ship or vessel in the service of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Admiralty, or in the service of Her Majesty's Postmaster-general, or of the East India Company; but in all such cases no passage or maintenance-money shall be allowed or paid in respect of such emigrants, unless the agent-general or sub-agent of immigrants shall have first ascertained, by personal inspection of the ship or vessel and passengers, that such emigrants have not been induced to emigrate by any fraud or false or unreasonable representations, and that every proper care and attention has been paid by the master of such ship or vessel to the health, comfort and safety of such emigrants during the passage, and shall have certified the same to the Governor by certificate under his hand.

Persons breaking the provisions of this Act not entitled to any of the benefits herein provided.

Agent's certificate required.

23. And be it further enacted, that in every case where immigrants are imported under the provisions of this Act, one-third at the least of such immigrants shall consist of females.

One-third imported must be females.

24. And be it further enacted, that no immigrant arriving in this island under the provisions of this Act or otherwise, shall be required to serve in the militia, except in the case of martial law.

Immigrants exempted from militia duty.

25. And be it further enacted, that the said agent-general shall render to the commissioners of public accounts quarterly statements of the number of immigrants imported, and of the monies expended under this Act.

Quarterly returns of number imported to be rendered to commissioners of accounts.

26. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said agents to use all such means as may be requisite to procure persons willing to immigrate to this island, and to lay before such persons the proposals that may be transmitted to the said agents, and fully to explain the same, and to embark such persons for this island, and to defray the expense of conveying such persons to the port of embarkation, or incidental thereon, or to enter into arrangement with any person or persons willing to defray such expense, or any part thereof, and to agree for the passage-money, and for the proper care, feeding, and accommodation on ship-board, as hereinbefore prescribed, and the landing in this island of such immigrants, and generally to make such arrangements as may be requisite; provided always, that previous to the embarkation of any immigrants, they, he, or she shall give an acknowledgment in writing to the said agent, which shall be valid and in full force in this island, that they, he, or she shall be liable for the due repayment of the passage-money and expenses incidental on their embarkation and importation, if, on their arrival in this island, they, he, or she shall refuse to enter into and complete the proposals shown to them as aforesaid, in consequence of which they had agreed to emigrate (of which proposals each family or single person shall be furnished with a copy), such acknowledgment to become void on the acceptance by such immigrant or immigrants of any other proposal made by any sub-agent in this island.

Agents authorized to make arrangements to procure emigrants.

Proviso.

Agent-general may remit funds requisite to carry Act into effect, and authorize payment of drafts made by sub-agents.

27. And be it further enacted, that for meeting the expenses of the said agents in the discharge of their duties, under the provisions of this Act, it shall be lawful for the said agent-general from time to time to transmit and lodge in the hands of such banking-house in London as to him shall seem fit, such sums of money as may be requisite for the said purpose, upon the usual terms, and shall authorize such banking-house to pay and discharge the drafts of such authorized agents as aforesaid, of whom due information is to be given to the said banking-house; and with each such draft the said agent shall forward to the said banking-house, in duplicate, and by the first mail packet, to the said agent-general, in duplicate, a particular account of the expenses for which each separate draft shall be so drawn.

Emigrants may make their own agreements. Proviso

Proviso. Subject to approval of sub-agent.

28. And be it further enacted, that on the arrival of any immigrants in this island, all such proposals and applications, approved as aforesaid, shall be submitted to the said immigrants, who shall thereupon have free liberty to agree with such applicants: provided always, that no immigrant imported under the provisions of this Act shall be located on any property, unless it shall appear to the said sub-agent that due provision has been made for the residence and maintenance of such immigrants, in accordance with the proposals approved of by the said agent-general, as hereinbefore mentioned: provided also, that if any person or persons whatsoever, not having submitted proposals as provided by this Act, shall make it appear, to the satisfaction of the agent-general, that proper and adequate preparation has been made for the locating of immigrants, it shall be lawful for the said agent-general, on payment of the expenses incurred on account of such immigrants, from the time of their arrival in this island, to give a written permission to such person, and likewise to such immigrant, to enter into any such mutual agreement as to them shall seem most advantageous: provided also, that no agreement entered into in any case by any immigrant or immigrants imported under the provisions of this Act shall extend beyond the term of one year, and shall be determinable by either party on three months' notice.

Proviso. Agreements not to extend beyond one year.

Location of immigrants.

29. And whereas it is necessary to provide that immigrants shall not be exposed to liability of sickness, privations, and hardships, from being engaged by persons who might employ such immigrants in low and unhealthy situations, to which, without having been duly acclimated, they are not adapted; or by persons not having adequate means for their support, or proper dwellings for their reception: be it enacted, that if any person or persons shall engage the service of any European field labourer within three years after their arrival in this island, and who may have been imported under the provisions of this Act, and shall locate in dwellings, or employ in labour, such field labourers as are herein contemplated, in or upon any situation or place not approved of by the agent-general, without such written permission as hereinbefore directed, such person or persons, whether owner or acting manager, or person in possession of any lands on which such immigrants shall be so employed or located, with the privity of such person or persons owning, managing, or in possession, without such written permission, any or either of them shall be liable, for each and every such offence, to a penalty not exceeding 30 *l.*, with full costs, for each immigrant so employed or located as aforesaid, to be recovered in a summary manner before any two Justices of the Peace, and enforced by warrant of distress under the hands and seals of the said two Justices; the said penalty or penalties to be one-half to the informer, and one-half to the collecting constable, for the use of the parish; and in default of goods whereon to levy, the said offender to be liable to imprisonment for any time not exceeding two months: provided, that nothing herein shall be taken to prevent any person or persons from employing or locating in dwellings any European domestic servants, or such European immigrants intended to be employed as pen-keepers, shepherds, or ploughmen, or as tradesmen, without the approval of the agent-general; nor shall the restrictions stated be taken to apply to any European emigrants who may come to this island from the United States of America, or any European climate, who shall show that they have been not less than three years in such countries from whence they have embarked for this island.

Agent to supply proprietors applying, with suitable labourers.

30. And whereas it is expedient to give encouragement to the proprietors of estates in this island to send out labourers: be it enacted, that in case any such proprietor shall apply to any agent appointed under this Act, it shall be the duty of such agent, and he is hereby required to see that the persons so intended to be sent out are of a proper description, and also that the rules and conditions prescribed by this Act, for their proper accommodation and protection on board of ship, are strictly complied with; in which case, upon the arrival of the vessel in this island, and presentation to the agent-general of the counterpart list of the persons on board, as hereinbefore provided, it shall be lawful for the agent-general, and he is hereby required to pay to the importer or his agent the expense incurred in sending out such persons, provided that the expense so incurred shall not exceed what is customary from the port of their embarkation, and provided also that they are approved of by the agent-general as a proper description of people for the location intended.

Proviso.

Receiver-general to supply the requisite sums to agent-general.

31. And be it further enacted, for the raising and supplying of the funds requisite for the purposes of this Act, that it shall and may be lawful for the said agent-general from time to time to draw upon the receiver-general for the time being for such sums as may be required in each and every year, not exceeding in the whole the sum of 50,000 *l.* sterling in any one year; and the receiver-general for the time being is hereby authorized and directed to pay such orders or drafts out of any monies he may have in his hands, applicable thereunto.

32. And

32. And be it further enacted, that the said agent-general, by and with the consent of the Governor for the time being, shall have full power to make such bye-laws and regulations for carrying into effect the purposes of this Act as to him shall seem fit and proper. Agent empowered to enact bye-laws.

33. And be it further enacted, that in all cases of dispute between immigrants imported under this Act, and their employers, any two Justices of the Peace shall have full authority, and are hereby empowered to adjudicate upon the same, and to make such order thereon as to them shall seem just and equitable in the complaint made, and if deemed necessary, to annul and make void any contract or indenture between the parties, and to impose a fine on either party, not exceeding the sum of 20 *l.* sterling, to be recovered by warrant of distress, under the hands and seals of the said Justices; the said fine to be paid to the collecting constable for the use of the parish; and in default of goods whereon to levy, the offender to be committed to the house of correction for any time not exceeding 30 days, unless the fine be sooner paid; and in all such cases it shall be lawful for the said Justices to examine the plaintiff or defendant, or either, upon oath. Disputes arising between employers and immigrants to be adjudicated by two justices of the peace.

34. And be it further enacted, that the agent-general be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to purchase land for the formation of villages for the settlement of European immigrants in such parishes as the Governor or person exercising the functions of Governor of this island for the time being may approve, not exceeding 20 acres, in any one place or part of such parish, whereon to build and erect cottages of such description as may appear best suited, to the agent-general, for the purposes contemplated by this Act: provided that none of the said cottages shall cost more than 50 *l.* sterling; such cottages to have a garden attached, consisting of not more than one-half of an acre of land; and that no parish shall have more than two villages erected during the continuance of the present Act, nor shall more than four villages be commenced or completed in any one year: and provided, that the whole amount to be expended in the formation of such villages shall not in any one year exceed the sum of 6,000 *l.* sterling. Agent-general empowered to purchase land and build villages. Proviso. Proviso.

35. And be it further enacted, that immigrants shall be imported, suited to the location of the said villages, and to the description of labour usually obtained in the neighbourhood of such villages, and who shall be placed in the several cottages on their arrival, the said immigrants agreeing to pay such rent as may be fixed on by the agent-general; and a sufficient sum of money or rations shall be allowed each such immigrant for their support, for a period not exceeding two weeks; after which each immigrant or family of immigrants shall be left to their own industry and exertions. Immigrants to pay rent.

36. And be it further enacted, that on the completion of not less than 20 cottages in any such village or villages, a fit and proper person shall be appointed a schoolmaster, at an annual salary not exceeding 50 *l.* sterling, and be allowed a cottage rent free; provided, he shall, by a written agreement to be by him entered into with the agent-general, bind himself to teach the children of the village in reading, writing, and arithmetick, at a rate not exceeding 3 *d.* sterling per week for each scholar. Provision for schoolmasters. Proviso.

37. And be it further enacted, that all immigrants imported under the provisions of this Act, upon their settling in any of such villages, shall have the right of purchasing the cottages in which they shall reside, or any other that may be unoccupied, by means of any monies which such immigrants may have brought with them to this island, or have acquired by means of their industry since their arrival in this island, at a valuation to be fixed on by any two respectable tradesmen, one to be appointed by the agent-general, and the other by such immigrant desiring to purchase such cottage; and, upon a moiety of the purchase-money being paid down, a title shall be lodged in the hands of the rector of the parish in which the village shall be situate, to be delivered to the purchaser on his or her producing a receipt of the payment of the remaining moiety, such remaining moiety to be paid by two yearly instalments, with interest at the rate of six per cent.; and all rent shall cease from the day on which the first moiety shall be paid. Immigrants may purchase the cottages in which they reside. Time allowed for payment of one moiety.

38. And be it further enacted, that on the purchase of any land for the purposes of this Act, the title thereto shall be taken in the name of the rector and churchwardens of the parish in which such lands are situate, who are hereby empowered to grant titles to immigrants desirous of purchasing cottages as hereinbefore mentioned. Rector and churchwardens appointed trustees for land purchased.

39. And be it further enacted, that the agent-general shall, and he is hereby required to account quarterly for all monies that he may receive under the provisions of this Act, with the commissioners of public accounts; and which monies shall be applicable to the general purposes of this Act. Agent-general to render quarterly accounts.

40. And be it further enacted, that the several agents in America, Great Britain and Ireland, and elsewhere, by virtue of a power to them for that purpose to be granted by the agent-general, shall, and they are hereby required to offer grants of land to emigrants of good character, of America, Great Britain and Ireland, and such parts of Europe where it may be supposed such offer will meet with attention; such grants of land to be in proportion to the amount of capital such emigrant may bring with them to this island; the land so to be granted at no time to exceed in value the amount for which such emigrant will engage to expend on the buildings to be erected, and in the cultivation of such lands: provided always, that no emigrant taking such grants of land shall be allowed to sell or give away the same under 10 years subsequent to such grant, and until they shall have Agents may offer grants of land to emigrants. Proviso.

satisfied the proper authorities that the amount agreed on shall have been expended as hereinbefore contemplated.

Encouragement to inhabitants of towns to settle in the interior.

41. And be it further enacted, that in case any of the inhabitants of the several towns of this island, who may have a desire to settle in the interior districts of this island, shall have grants of land secured to them on their entering into bond with sufficient security, engaging to put up all necessary buildings, and to cultivate the said lands to be so granted, subject to the like proviso contained in the preceding clause with respect to immigrants.

Parties importing emigrants under late Act to be reimbursed.

42. And be it further enacted, that parties who may have located emigrants under the Act to encourage immigration, and passed last Session, and who may have paid a moiety of the expense of importing such immigrants, be refunded the said moiety so paid, and that the agent-general be authorized to refund the same.

Act to be in force to 31st December 1842.

43. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be and continue in force until the 31st day of December 1842, and no longer.

No. 2.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.—AN ORDINANCE to regulate and encourage Immigration into *British Guiana*. 1841.

Ordinance Enacted by his Excellency Colonel Sir *Henry George Macleod*, K.H. and K.S.W. Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of *British Guiana*, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.; by and with the advice and consent of the Honourable the Court of Policy of said Colony.

To all to whom these presents do, may, or shall come, greeting; Be it known:—

WHEREAS it is expedient that provision be made, and due and proper regulations established for encouraging the introduction into this colony of labourers in husbandry.

1. Be it enacted, that from and out of the revenues annually accruing within this colony, there shall be annually set apart and paid, and applied for the purpose of encouraging the introduction into this colony of labourers in husbandry, such sum and sums of money as have already been or which shall or may hereafter be raised and set apart for that object by the Governor and Court of Policy, with the Financial Representatives in Combined Court assembled.

2. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, or for the Governor of this colony in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, by a commission to be for that purpose issued under the public seal of this colony, to appoint an officer resident within the same, to be called the agent-general for emigration, and also to appoint, at such ports or places beyond the seas as to such Governor on the recommendation of the Court of Policy shall seem meet, any number of persons, not exceeding ten at any one time, to be emigration agents for British Guiana at such ports or places; provided nevertheless, that, unless with the previous approbation of one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, no such emigration agent shall be so appointed at any port or place within the limits of the East India Company's charter, nor at any port or place on the Western or Eastern Coasts of the African Continent, nor at the island of Madagascar, nor at any other island adjacent to the said coasts of the said continent, and inhabited by the negro race.

3. And be it further enacted, that the said agent-general and the said emigration agents shall respectively hold such their offices during Her Majesty's pleasure, and shall be liable to be suspended therefrom by the Governor of this colony until Her Majesty's pleasure shall be known; and in the event of the death, resignation, suspension, removal, incapacity, or absence from his duties of any such officer as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, or for the Governor of this colony until Her Majesty's pleasure shall be known, to appoint a successor to discharge the duties of any such office, and so on from time to time as often as any such vacancy may occur.

4. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor of this colony, by warrants in the customary form, addressed to the colonial receiver, to issue, or cause to be issued, by four equal quarterly payments, to the said agent-general for emigration, an annual salary not exceeding 500 *l.* sterling per annum, and to each of the said emigration agents such remuneration as may seem reasonable; provided always, that such remuneration shall not in any case be given merely in proportion to the number of emigrants sent to this colony by any such agent.

5. And whereas it is expedient that bounties be paid for the reward and encouragement of persons introducing, at their own expense, labourers in husbandry into this colony, provided that the rules hereinafter prescribed for the due care of such labourers on their passage to this colony be duly observed, and that proof be made in manner hereinafter mentioned of the observance thereof; be it therefore enacted, that the rules and regulations set forth in the Schedule hereunto subjoined, and marked with the letter (A.), shall be observed and fulfilled in respect of every labourer introduced in this colony for the introduction of whom a bounty shall be payable in virtue of this ordinance, and in respect of any ship or vessel in which any such labourer may perform his or her voyage to this colony; provided always, that the rules and regulations in the said Schedule contained, touching

touching and relating to the number of persons in proportion to the tonnage, and to the height between decks, and the rate of one person for every 15 superficial feet, shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to any of Her Majesty's steam-packets, or to any of the steam-vessels of the Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company, or of the Steam Navigation Company of British Guiana; and provided also, that the aforesaid bounty shall not be paid or payable upon the importation of any labourer who shall have previously resided in this colony, or upon whom any bounty, or for whom any passage-money, shall have been previously paid under the provisions of this ordinance or otherwise howsoever.

6. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the emigration agent for British Guiana, resident at the port or place at which any such labourer as aforesaid shall embark on his or her voyage to this colony, by personal inspection to satisfy himself whether the beforementioned rules and regulations have or have not been observed and fulfilled in reference to any such labourer or labourers, ship or vessel, as aforesaid, in so far as the same relate to any act, matter, or thing to be done, or any arrangement to be made, at or before the time of clearing out of any such ship or vessel; and if satisfied, in manner aforesaid, of the observance and fulfilment in any such case of the said rules and regulations, it shall be the duty of the said emigration agent to deliver, under his hand and seal, to the master of such ship or vessel, a certificate in writing, addressed to the agent-general for emigration aforesaid, in the terms set forth in the second Schedule hereunto subjoined, marked with the letter (B).

7. And be it further enacted, that on the arrival of any such ship or vessel, as aforesaid, at this colony, it shall be the duty of the said agent-general immediately to go on board of and inspect the same; and also to examine in person each and every labourer introduced into this colony in any such ship or vessel, and to ascertain as far as may be in his power whether the rules and regulations aforesaid have been faithfully observed and fulfilled during the voyage, by or on the behalf of the person or persons at whose charge any such labourers may have been so introduced; and it shall also be the duty of the said agent-general to cause to be brought before him all the labourers enumerated in the muster-roll of any such ship or vessel, and to satisfy himself whether they are able-bodied labourers and in good health; and if any labourer enumerated in any such muster-roll, shall not be forthcoming on the arrival of such ship or vessel at this colony, it shall be the duty of the said agent-general to inquire into and ascertain the cause of the non-appearance of any such person; and in case it shall be alleged that any such person as aforesaid had died during the voyage, then it shall be the duty of such agent-general to inquire into and ascertain the cause and circumstances of the death of any such person; and if the said agent-general shall be satisfied that the rules and regulations aforesaid have been observed and fufilled in the case of any such labourer or labourers as aforesaid who shall be actually landed at this colony, then it shall be the duty of such agent-general, under his hand and seal, to address to the Governor of this colony a certificate of that fact, which certificate shall be in the form prescribed and set forth in the Schedule hereunto subjoined, marked with the letter (C).

8. And be it further enacted, that in respect of every labourer whose name shall be comprised in such last-mentioned certificate as being able-bodied, and as having been landed in good health at the colony, a bounty shall be payable from and out of the fund so appropriated as aforesaid for that purpose, the amount of which bounty shall be issued to the person or persons entitled to receive the same; but if any doubt shall arise as to what person or persons are entitled to such bounty, or in what proportion the same should be divided between any two or more persons, the said agent-general shall be and he is hereby authorized to examine into any such question in a summary way; and such agent-general shall, in the body of every such certificate as aforesaid, state to whom and in what proportions every such payment is to be made.

9. And whereas it is necessary to determine the rate of bounty to be payable in every such case as aforesaid: be it therefore enacted, that such bounty shall be regulated by the average length of the voyage from the port or place of embarkation to this colony, and that it shall be lawful for the Governor aforesaid, by any proclamation or proclamations to be by him from time to time issued, to determine what shall be the rate of such bounty in respect of wages from each port or place at which such emigration agent as aforesaid for British Guiana may be stationed, and also to determine the total amount of the sums payable as bounties in respect of labourers introduced from any such port or place, and every such proclamation as aforesaid shall be inserted in the public Gazette of this colony, and exhibited for general information at the respective offices of the said agent-general and of the said emigration agents; and every payment of bounty to be made by the said receiver-general in pursuance of warrants issued in the customary manner, shall be regulated by and correspond with the terms of the last preceding proclamation for that purpose.

10. And be it further enacted, that in case any such labourers as aforesaid shall not, on their arrival at this colony, be immediately provided with the means of employment and subsistence, it shall be lawful for the said agent-general to provide such persons with wholesome and sufficient food, and with convenient lodging on shore, for such time as may be deemed proper, until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them; and the said agent-general shall exhibit to the Governor an account, supported by all necessary vouchers, of any such expenditure, which account, being allowed by the said Governor, shall be duly discharged under warrant to be issued in the customary manner.

 11. And

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11. And be it further enacted, that in the execution of the duties hereby intrusted to him, it shall be lawful for the said emigration agent, and he is hereby authorised, to examine any person or persons, on oath or otherwise, touching any matter in question before him, and to require the attendance and examination of witnesses on any such question, and to do all such acts, matters, and things for enforcing such attendance and examination as may lawfully be done by any stipendiary magistrate in regard to the attendance and examination of witnesses on any question depending before him in the exercise of his lawful jurisdiction; and if any person, being examined as a witness before the said agent-general touching any of the matters aforesaid, shall wilfully and corruptly give any false evidence, such person being thereof convicted, shall be liable to all such pains and penalties as any person is now liable to on conviction for wilful and corrupt perjury.

12. And be it further enacted, that the Governor shall not permit the provisions of this Ordinance to be carried into effect unless in respect of immigrants for the reception of whom due preparation shall have been previously made according to such rules and regulations as the Governor and Court of Policy shall have established by a public notice to be by him issued for that purpose.

13. And be it further enacted, that the Governor shall not give effect to this Ordinance in so far as it encourages immigration, unless it be under such circumstances and with such precautions as shall ensure an equality in numbers between the male and female emigrants annually introduced under its provisions.

And that no ignorance shall be pretended of this our Ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, this 18th January 1841, and published on the 23d following.

Henry G. Macleod.

By Command of the Court,

H. E. F. Young, Secretary.

SCHEDULE (A).

Comprising the Rules and Regulations to be observed in respect of Labourers introduced into this Colony, for the introduction of whom a bounty shall be payable under this Ordinance.

Schedule (A.)

1. EVERY such emigrant shall, at the time of his or her embarkation, be in a state of good bodily health.

2. Every such emigrant shall, before his embarkation, have communicated in person with the emigration agent at the port of embarkation, and shall have received from such agent full information as to his or her probable condition, and the means of subsistence in this colony.

3. Every such emigrant shall embark for this colony with his or her free consent and without the practice of any force, fraud, or imposition, to induce him or her to do so.

4. No ship carrying any such emigrants shall proceed on her voyage with more persons on board than in the proportion of three for every five tons of the registered burden of such ship; the master and crew being included and forming a part of such prescribed number.

5. If any ship shall have more than one deck, the height between decks shall be five feet and a half at the least.

6. If any such ship shall have only one deck, there shall be laid beneath such deck a platform in such a manner as to afford, throughout the whole intervening space, a height of five feet and a half at the least.

7. No such ship shall have more than two such tiers of berths.

8. Any such ship having two tiers of berths shall have an interval of six inches, at the least, between the deck or platform and the floor of the lower tier throughout the whole extent thereof.

9. No such ship, whatever may be her tonnage, shall carry a greater number of emigrants than at the rate of one such person for every 15 superficial feet of the lower deck or platform, unoccupied by goods or stores not being the personal baggage of such emigrants.

10. No such ship shall proceed on her voyage until there shall be on board such ship or vessel good and wholesome provisions for the use and consumption of such emigrants over and above the victualling of the crew, to such an amount, and to such a description, customary with the emigrants, as in the judgment of the emigration agent, at the port of embarkation, is amply sufficient for the voyage; and a supply of water to the amount of five gallons to every week for the computed voyage for every emigrant on board such ship or vessel, such water being carried in tanks or sweet casks.

11. If

11. If any such ship or vessel shall be destined to call at any port or place, in the course of her voyage, for the purpose of filling up her water, a supply of the water, at the rate before mentioned, for every week of the computed voyage to such port or place of calling shall be deemed to be in compliance with the provisions of this regulation: provided that at the said place of calling a sufficient supply of water for the computed remainder of the voyage be taken in, and also that the agent at the port of embarkation shall be satisfied with the computation made of the probable duration of the voyage.

12. Every such ship, having 100 or more passengers on board, shall have rated upon the ship's company, and there shall actually proceed with the ship or vessel on her voyage, some person duly authorised by law to practise as a physician, surgeon, or apothecary; and there shall be on board a medicine-chest, and a proper supply of medicines, instruments, and other medical stores, suitable and adequate in amount and kind to the probable exigencies of the voyage, and to the satisfaction of the agent at the port of embarkation.

13. Every such ship shall at the time of sailing be sea-worthy, which, if thought necessary by the agent at the port of embarkation, shall be ascertained by a survey being made by two competent persons.

14. No such emigrants shall be above the age of 45 years.

15. For the purpose, and within the meaning of these regulations, in so far as they refer to the number of emigrants who may be brought in any vessel, two children, each being under the age of 14 years, but above the age of seven years, or three children, each being under the age of seven years, shall be computed as one person only.

Schedule (B.)

Schedule (B.)

Comprising the Form and Certificate to be addressed by the Emigration Agent at the port of embarkation, to the Agent-general for Emigration at this colony.

I. *A. B.*, the emigration agent for British Guiana, at the port of , do hereby certify, that on this day of had cleared out from this port the ship ,master, of the registered burthen of tons, having on board the several emigrants bound to British Guiana whose names, sexes, and supposed ages are enumerated in the subjoined muster-roll; and I do further hereby certify that I have diligently inspected the said ship, her fittings, equipments, and stores, and that the same are in exact conformity with the rules and regulations prescribed for that purpose in and by a certain ordinance of the Governor and Court of Policy of British Guiana, dated 18th day of January 1841, and entitled, "An Ordinance to regulate and encourage Immigration into British Guiana;" and I further hereby certify that I have personally communicated with each of the emigrants, being of the age of 12 years and upwards, enumerated in the said muster-roll, and am fully satisfied that the rules and regulations aforesaid have been fully observed and performed in respect of each of them.

Given under my hand and seal at aforesaid, this day of in the year of our Lord .

To Agent-general for Emigration, at British Guiana.

Schedule (C.)

Schedule (C.)

Comprising the Certificate to be addressed to the Governor by the Agent-general.

I, *C. D.*, the agent-general for emigration of British Guiana, do hereby certify that I have received from *A. B.*, the emigration agent for this colony, at , the accompanying certificate, and that I have been on board of, and have inspected, the ship therein mentioned, and that I have examined in person each and every emigrant who had arrived at this colony in the said ship, and that it appears to me that the rules and regulations referred to in the annexed certificate have been faithfully observed and fulfilled during the voyage by or on behalf of and that they being the persons at whose charge the emigrants aforesaid have been introduced into this colony; and I hereby further certify, that I have caused to be brought before me all the emigrants enumerated in the muster-roll subjoined to the said annexed certificate (save only and , who are reported to me to have died during the voyage), and that such emigrants appear to me to be able-bodied labourers, and in good health; and I do further certify, that I have inquired into the cause of the deaths of the said and that I find the causes of such death to be as following, that is to say:—

And I do further certify that the number of emigrants actually landed at this colony from the said ship is , and that no bounty has been previously paid in this colony for or in respect of any such emigrants to the best of my judgment and belief; all the rules and regulations aforesaid have been observed in respect of them.

Given under my hand and seal, this day of in the year of our Lord , at Georgetown, in the colony of British Guiana.

To his Excellency. (signed)

Agent general for Emigration.

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No. 3.

BRITISH GUIANA.

PROCLAMATION by his Excellency *Henry Light*, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of British Guiana, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

(L. S.)

WHEREAS by the Ordinance No. 4 of the Governor and Court of Policy of this colony, enacted upon the 18th day of January 1841, and published upon the 23d day of the same month, intituled, "An Ordinance to Regulate and Encourage Immigration into British Guiana," it was, among other things, enacted, that bounties should be paid for the reward and encouragement of persons introducing, at their own expense, labourers in husbandry into British Guiana; provided that the rules in the said Ordinance prescribed for the due care of such labourers, on their passage to this colony, should be duly observed; and provided that proof should be made in manner in the said Ordinance prescribed of the observance of the said rules; and it was by the said Ordinance further enacted, that the rules and regulations set forth in a schedule to the said Ordinance subjoined, and marked with the letter (A.), should be observed and fulfilled in respect of every labourer introduced into this colony, for the introduction of whom a bounty should, under the said Ordinance, be payable; and also in respect of any ship or vessel in which any such labourer should perform his or her voyage into British Guiana; and it was also, by the ninth section of the said Ordinance, further enacted, that such bounty should be regulated by the average length of the voyage from the port or place of embarkation to this colony, and that it should be lawful for the Governor of British Guiana, by any proclamation or proclamations to be by him from time to time issued, to determine what should be the rate of bounty to be paid as aforesaid for the introduction into this colony of any labourers from each port or place at which any immigration agents for British Guiana should be stationed: and whereas, by a despatch, No. 150, of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, dated Downing-street, 30th of December 1840, it has been communicated to me that Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that they will be justified in admitting the colony of Sierra Leone into the list of places from which emigrants may be introduced into British Guiana:

Now, I, Henry Light, Governor of the colony of British Guiana, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the said Ordinance, No. 4, of the said year 1841, and in pursuance of the authority conveyed to me by the aforesaid despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, do hereby declare, publish, and proclaim the following to be the places in respect of which, with regard to emigrants arriving therefrom into British Guiana, the provisions of the aforesaid Ordinance shall be applicable; and I do by this proclamation further declare and make known that the several sums of money set opposite to such places respectively shall be the bounties, that is to say, the rates of passage-money and maintenance, to be allowed under the provisions of the said Ordinance for each and every emigrant arriving in this colony from such places respectively:—

	Dols.
From Sierra Leone	30
Madeira	30
United States of America	30
Bahamas	30
Barbadoes	12
Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitt's, Nevis, Anguilla, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Bartholomew's, Virgin Islands	20
Grenada, St. Vincent's, St. Lucia, Tobago, Curaçoa	16
Margarita and the Spanish Main, including Peons	20
Brazils	25
Havanna	30

And whereas it is by the said Ordinance further enacted, that the Governor of this colony shall not give effect to the said Ordinance, in so far as it encourages immigration, unless under such circumstances and with such precautions as shall insure equality between the numbers of the male and female immigrants to be annually introduced under its provisions; I do, therefore, hereby further proclaim that no such bounty as aforesaid will be paid or allowed under the provisions of the said Ordinance in respect of any immigrant or immigrants coming into this colony from any part of the United States of America, or from Sierra Leone, or Madeira, at any time after three months from the date of this my proclamation, or from any of the other places hereinbefore set forth at any time after six weeks

weeks from the date of this my proclamation, unless the number of males and females on board the ship or vessel in which such immigrants shall come into this colony shall be equal; and in case the number of immigrants of the one sex, on board any such ship or vessel, shall be greater than the number of the other sex, then such passage-money and allowance as aforesaid shall be paid only for those immigrants who are of that sex whose numbers are the least, and for an equal number of immigrants of the other sex.

Provided always, that if it shall at any time be made to appear, to the satisfaction of the Governor for the time being, that arrangements have been actually and *bonâ fide* made for bringing to the colony, within any given period of 12 months from the date of such arrangements, a certain number of immigrants at the same or nearly the same time from any particular place, and that in the whole number of such immigrants so to be brought the proportion of the one sex to the other is equal, then it shall be lawful for the Governor to order and direct the payment of the passage-money or allowance in respect of any part of such immigrants who may arrive here, although the number of persons of one sex may not be equal to the number of the other sex.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the Guiana Public Buildings in Georgetown, Demerara, this 16th day of February 1841, and in the fourth year of Her Majesty's reign.

God save the Queen!

By Command,

W. B. Wolseley, Acting Government Secretary.

SCHEDULE (A.)

Schedule (A.)

Comprising the Rules and Regulations to be observed in respect of labourers introduced into this colony, for the introduction of whom a bounty shall be payable under this Ordinance.

1. Every such emigrant shall, at the time of his or her embarkation, be in a state of good bodily health.

2. Every such emigrant shall, before his embarkation, have communicated in person with the emigration agent at the port of embarkation, and shall have received from such agent full information as to his or her probable condition, and the means of subsistence in this colony.

3. Every such emigrant shall embark for this colony with his or her free consent, and without the practice of any force, fraud, or imposition, to induce him or her to do so.

4. No ship carrying any such emigrants shall proceed on her voyage with more persons on board than in the proportion of three for every five tons of the registered burden of such ship; the master and crew being included, and forming a part of such prescribed number.

5. If any ship shall have more than one deck, the height between decks shall be five feet and a half at the least.

6. If any ship shall have only one deck, there shall be laid beneath such deck a platform in such a manner as to afford, throughout the whole intervening space, a height of five feet and a half at the least.

7. No such ship shall have more than two such tiers of berths.

8. Any such ship having two tiers of berths shall have an interval of six inches, at the least, between the deck or platform and the floor of the lower tier throughout the whole extent thereof.

9. No such ship, whatever may be her tonnage, shall carry a greater number of emigrants than at the rate of one such person for every 15 superficial feet of the lower deck or platform unoccupied by goods or stores not being the personal baggage of such emigrants.

10. No such ship shall proceed on her voyage until there shall be on board such ship or vessel good and wholesome provisions for the use and consumption of such emigrants, over and above the victualling of the crew, to such an amount, and of such a description customary with the emigrants, as, in the judgment of the emigration agent at the port of embarkation, is amply sufficient for the voyage; and a supply of water to the amount of five gallons to every week for the computed voyage for every emigrant on board such ship or vessel, such water being carried in tanks or sweet casks.

11. If any such ship or vessel shall be destined to call at any port or place, in the course of her voyage, for the purpose of filling up her water, a supply of the water at the rate before mentioned for every week of the computed voyage to such port or place of calling shall be deemed to be in compliance with the provisions of this regulation: provided that at the said place of calling a sufficient supply of water for the computed remainder of the voyage be taken in, and also that the agent at the port of embarkation shall be satisfied with the computation made of the probable duration of the voyage.

12. Every such ship, having 100 or more passengers on board, shall have rated upon the ship's company, and there shall actually proceed with the ship or vessel on her voyage, some person duly authorised by law to practise as a physician, surgeon, or apothecary; and there shall be on board a medicine-chest, and a proper supply of medicines, instruments, and other medical stores, suitable and adequate in amount and kind to the probable exigencies of the voyage, and to the satisfaction of the agent at the port of embarkation.

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13. Every such ship shall at the time of sailing be sea-worthy, which, if thought necessary by the agent at the port of embarkation, shall be ascertained by a survey being made by two competent persons.

14. No such emigrants shall be above the age of 45 years.

15. For the purpose and within the meaning of these regulations, in so far as they refer to the number of emigrants who may be brought in any vessel, two children, each being under the age of 14 years, but above the age of seven years, or three children, each being under the age of seven years, shall be computed as one person only.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that the 10th Section of the Ordinance No. 4, Anno 1841, should be re-published for general information.

"10. And be it further enacted, that in case any such labourers as aforesaid shall not, on their arrival at this colony, be immediately provided with the means of employment and subsistence, it shall be lawful for the said agent-general to provide such persons with wholesome and sufficient food, and with convenient lodging on shore, for such time as may be deemed proper, until the means of earning their own subsistence can be procured for them; and the said agent-general shall exhibit to the Governor an account, supported by all necessary vouchers, of any such expenditure; which account, being allowed by the said Governor, shall be duly discharged under warrant to be issued in the customary manner."

No. 4.

BRITISH GUIANA.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, 27th April 1842.

Present: The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS on the 18th day of January 1841, an Ordinance was passed by Sir Henry Macleod, then Governor of the colony of British Guiana, by and with the advice of the Court of Policy of the said colony, intituled, "An Ordinance to regulate and encourage Immigration into British Guiana."

And whereas the first clause of the Ordinance aforesaid enacts that from and out of the revenues annually accruing within the colony, there shall be annually set apart and paid, and applied for the purpose of encouraging the introduction into the colony of labourers in husbandry, such sum and sums of money as have already been, or which shall or may hereafter be raised and set apart for that object by the Governor and Court of Policy, with the financial representatives in combined court assembled.

And whereas it is enacted, in the 4th, 9th, and 10th clauses of the Ordinance aforesaid, that the monies thereby authorised to be paid to the several parties, and on the several accounts therein mentioned, shall be paid by the receiver-general of the colony, under warrants to be issued in the customary form.

And whereas in the 8th clause of the Ordinance aforesaid, it is not stated by whom and in what manner the bounties therein authorised shall be issued.

And whereas it is expedient that the 1st clause of the Ordinance aforesaid should be repealed altogether, or be altered and amended as follows; viz. Be it enacted, that from and out of the revenues annually accruing within this colony, there shall be annually set apart and paid, and applied for the purpose of encouraging the introduction into this colony of labourers in husbandry, such sum and sums of money as have already been raised and set apart for that object, and such further sum and sums of money as shall or may hereafter be proposed by the Governor, and subsequently raised and set apart for that object by the Governor and Court of Policy, with the financial representatives in combined court assembled.

And whereas it is further expedient that the moneys authorised to be paid to the several parties, and on the several accounts mentioned in the 4th, 9th, and 10th clauses of the Ordinance aforesaid, should be so paid by the receiver-general of the colony, in pursuance of any warrant to be addressed to him for that purpose by the Governor; and that the 8th clause of the Ordinance aforesaid should provide that the bounties therein authorised to be made shall be payable in pursuance of any such warrants as aforesaid.

And whereas it is expedient that the Ordinance aforesaid should be disallowed by Her Majesty, unless an Ordinance shall be passed by the Governor and Court of Policy, containing the several modifications hereinbefore mentioned.

And whereas it is expedient that a period of time should be fixed within which an Ordinance should be passed by the Governor and Court of Policy for the purposes aforesaid: Now, therefore, Her Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to declare, and it is hereby declared, that if at the expiration of three months after the receipt, in the colony of British Guiana, of this Her present Order, no Ordinance shall have been passed by the Governor and Court of Policy containing the modifications hereinbefore mentioned, as required to be made in the Ordinance passed on the 18th day of January 1841, the Ordinance last mentioned shall be, and is hereby declared to be null and void, and of no effect.

And the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) *W. L. Bathurst.*

No. 5.

TRINIDAD.

At the Court at Windsor, 30th September 1839.

Present:—The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS an Ordinance was enacted on the 19th day of April last, by the acting Lieutenant-governor of Trinidad, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, for the encouragement of emigration, and for the protection of persons emigrating into that colony; which Ordinance is in the following terms:—

"An Ordinance enacted by his Excellency the acting Lieutenant-governor of the island of Trinidad, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, for the encouragement of emigration, and for the protection of persons emigrating to this colony."

Whereas an Ordinance was passed on the 24th day of November 1838, entitled, "An Ordinance for facilitating the Emigration into this Colony of Labourers accustomed to Agriculture, and inured to Labour in a Tropical Climate." And whereas it is expedient to repeal the said Ordinance, and to make better provision for the encouragement of emigration, and for the protection of persons emigrating to this colony; be it therefore enacted by his Excellency John Alexander Mein, esq., Colonel in Her Majesty's forces, acting Lieutenant-governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the said island and its dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, that the said recited Ordinance of the 24th day of November 1838, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed; provided nevertheless, that the several rates or sums of money which may have been fixed, under the said Ordinance, for defraying the expenses of the passage, and the maintenance during the passage of emigrants, shall be allowed and paid to all emigrants who shall come into this colony within three months next after the passing of this Ordinance, and who would have been entitled to such rates or sums of money in the same manner as if this Ordinance had not been passed.

2. And be it enacted, that from and after the passing of this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for the Governor for the time being to issue and pay from the Colonial treasury, for or in respect of every labourer of African race or descent who shall come into this colony for the purpose of settling therein, and also for or in respect of any agricultural labourer, although not of African race or descent, who shall come into this colony for the purpose of settling therein, from any port or place which shall have been named by the Governor and Council, as hereinafter directed, such sums of money for defraying the expense of the passage and maintenance during the passage of such labourer, and the wife and child or children of such labourer, as shall from time to time be fixed and allowed by order of the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government.

3. Provided always, and be it enacted, that the expenses of the passage and maintenance during the passage of all labourers of African race or descent, who shall come into this colony for such purpose as aforesaid, shall in all cases be paid from and out of the Colonial Treasury, notwithstanding that the sums to be allowed for the same shall not have previously been fixed as hereinbefore directed; and that where no order shall have been made for fixing the same, the agent-general of emigrants hereinafter mentioned shall certify, under his hand, to the Governor, what reasonable sums should be allowed in respect of such labourers, their wives and children, with reference to the distance of the place from which they shall have come, and the nature of the voyage, and as nearly as may be in proportion to the sums already fixed by the Governor and Council in respect of other places; and it shall be lawful for the Governor to direct that the sums so certified in respect of every such emigrant, his wife and children, shall be paid from the Colonial Treasury.

4. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, to name the several ports and places from which labourers coming into this colony, although not of African race or descent, shall be entitled to the benefits of this Ordinance, and notice thereof shall be given in the Royal Gazette.

5. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, from time to time to make order for the altering the amount of any sum or sums which may have been so fixed and allowed as aforesaid, or for the totally disallowing the same: provided always, that no such order altering or disallowing the amount of any sum or sums which may have been so fixed as aforesaid, shall come into operation until six months after such order shall have been published in the Royal Gazette.

6. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to nominate and appoint such person as he shall see fit as agent-general of emigrants, and such agent-general of emigrants shall reside in the town of Port of Spain, and there shall be paid to such agent-general from the Colonial Treasury an annual salary of 100*l.* sterling.

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7. And be it enacted, that in every such port or place as shall from time to time be selected by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, it shall be lawful for the Governor, with such advice and consent, to appoint some fit and proper person as an agent, for the purpose of facilitating the emigration of labourers into this colony, and to allow to such agent such remuneration, to be paid out of the Colonial Treasury, as may seem reasonable: provided always, that such remuneration shall not in any case be given merely in proportion to the number of emigrants sent to this colony by any such agent.

8. And be it enacted, that such agent shall ascertain, by personal communication with every emigrant, previous to his or her embarkation from the port or place for which such agent shall be appointed, that such emigrant has not been induced to emigrate by any fraud, or false or unreasonable representation, and is aware of the distance of the colony from the place from which he or she is about to emigrate, and the difficulty of return; and such agent shall explain the real advantages likely to be derived by such emigrant from a removal to this colony, at the same time cautioning such emigrant against unreasonable and unwarranted expectations; and such agent shall also ascertain that every such emigrant is in good health, and not incapacitated for labour by old age, bodily infirmity, or disease.

9. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful to ship on board of any ship or vessel carrying emigrants to this colony, any number of passengers exceeding the proportion of three persons for every five tons, old measurement, of the registered burden of such ship or vessel, the master and crew being included in and forming a part of such prescribed number; and that no such ship or vessel carrying emigrants, and having more than one deck, shall have less than the height of five feet and a half, at the least, between decks; and in case such ship or vessel shall have only one deck, a platform shall be laid beneath such deck, in such manner as to afford a space of the height of five feet and a half at the least; and that no such ship or vessel shall have more than two tiers of berths; and that no such ship or vessel having two tiers of berths shall carry passengers on any such voyage to this colony, unless there shall be an interval of six inches at the least between the deck or platform and the floor of the lower tier, throughout the whole extent thereof; and whatever may be the tonnage of the ship or vessel, no greater number of passengers shall be taken on board of such ship or vessel than shall be after the rate of one such person for every 10 superficial feet of the lower deck or platform unoccupied by goods or stores not being the personal baggage of such persons.

10. And be it enacted, that in the computation of the number of passengers within the meaning of this Ordinance, two children, each being under the age of 14 years, but above the age of seven years, or three children, each being under the age of seven years, shall in all cases be computed as one person only; and that children under the age of 12 months shall not be included in such computation.

11. And be it enacted, that there shall be actually laden and on board of every ship or vessel bringing emigrants into this colony, at the time of the departure of such ship or vessel from the port or place at which such labourers shall be embarked, good and wholesome provisions, for the use and consumption of the said passengers, over and above the victualling of the crew, to the amount or in the proportion following; that is to say, a supply of pure water to the amount of five gallons to every week of the computed voyage for every passenger on board such ship or vessel, such water being carried in tanks or sweet casks, and a supply of bread, biscuit, oatmeal, or bread stuffs, to the amount of seven pounds weight to every week of the computed voyage for every such passenger: provided always, that when any such ship or vessel shall be destined to call at a port or place in the course of her voyage, for the purpose of filling up her water-casks, a supply of water, at the rate before mentioned, for every week of an average voyage to such port or place of calling, shall be deemed to be a compliance with this Ordinance.

12. And be it enacted, that the number of weeks deemed to be necessary for the voyage of any such ship or vessel in the colony of Trinidad, from the places hereinafter named, shall be determined by the following rate of computation; that is to say, for a voyage from the United States of North America, five weeks; for a voyage from the British Possessions in North America, six weeks; for a voyage from the coast of Africa, north of Cape Palmas, six weeks, and south of Cape Palmas, 10 weeks; for a voyage from Malta, or other port or place in the Mediterranean, eight weeks; and from any place to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, 20 weeks.

13. And be it enacted, that before any such ship or vessel shall be cleared out on any such voyage, the agent appointed under this Ordinance for the port or place from which such ship or vessel shall be cleared out, shall survey, or cause to be surveyed by some competent person, the provisions and water hereinbefore required to be on board for the consumption of the passengers, and shall ascertain that the same are in good and sweet condition; and also that over and above the same there is on board an ample supply of water and stores for the victualling of the crew of the ship or vessel; and shall also ascertain that such ship or vessel is generally reputed seaworthy, and that the directions hereinbefore

hereinbefore contained for ensuring the health and safety of the passengers have been complied with, and shall grant a certificate thereof under his hand to the master of such ship or vessel.

14. And be it enacted, that the master of every ship or vessel bringing emigrants to this colony shall be bound to provide for and furnish to every such emigrant and his wife and children a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome provisions for his, her, and their daily maintenance during such voyage, and during the space of 48 hours next after the arrival of such ship or vessel in this colony, unless in any case it shall have been expressly stipulated and agreed between any such emigrant and the master of such ship or vessel, that such emigrant, his wife, and children, shall not be entitled to such maintenance.

15. And be it enacted, that two copies of this Ordinance, authenticated by the signature of the agent at the port or place from which such emigrants shall come, shall be delivered to the master, on demand, by such agent at the time of clearance, and shall be kept on board of every ship or vessel carrying such emigrants as aforesaid, and that one of such copies shall, upon request made at seasonable times to the master of the ship or vessel, be produced to any passenger for his perusal.

16. And be it enacted, that the master of every ship or vessel carrying emigrants to this colony shall, before clearing out such ship or vessel, deliver to such agent at the port or place from which such ship or vessel shall be cleared out, a list in writing, together with a duplicate of the same, specifying, as accurately as may be, the names, ages, and occupations of all and every the emigrants on board such ship or vessel; and such agent shall thereupon deliver to the said master a counterpart of such list, signed by such agent, and the said master shall, on the arrival of such ship or vessel in this colony, and previous to the disembarkation of any such emigrants, give notice of the arrival of such ship or vessel, and deliver the said counterpart of such list to such agent-general of immigrants; and such agent-general shall forthwith proceed on board of such ship or vessel, and shall ascertain, as far as possible, by personal inspection of the ship or vessel and passengers, whether the directions hereinbefore contained, with regard to the situation of the berth of such ship or vessel, the proportion of the passengers to the burthens and measurement of such ship or vessel, and the maintenance of the emigrants during such passage, have been complied with; and such agent-general shall personally muster such emigrants, and compare the numbers and names of such emigrants with the said counterpart of such lists, and shall certify in writing under his hand upon such counterpart the total number of emigrants then living and being on board of such vessel; and in case any such emigrant shall have died during the passage, or the number of names of the emigrants shall differ from the number or names stated in such counterpart, the agent-general shall note such death or difference upon such counterpart, and thereupon shall grant a licence under his hand for the disembarkation and landing of such emigrants.

17. And be it enacted, that if the agent-general on such personal inspection of the ship or vessel and emigrants, shall be satisfied that the provisions of this Ordinance have been complied with, he shall grant a certificate under his hand of the arrival in such colony of such emigrants respectively, and the place from which, and the ship or vessel in which such emigrants shall have arrived, and the sums of money payable in respect of such emigrants; and such sums shall be paid by the colonial treasurer, on the warrant of the Governor, to be granted on such certificate of the agent-general.

18. And be it enacted, that the agent-general shall keep a register of all persons in respect of whom any such certificate as aforesaid shall be granted, and of the ship or vessel in which, the port from which, and the time at which, such person shall have arrived in this colony; a copy of which registry shall be laid before the council of Government on the 31st day of March, the 30th day of June, the 30th day of September, and the 31st day of December in each year.

19. And be it enacted, that if any such ship or vessel bringing emigrants to this colony shall carry any number of passengers exceeding by more than one person in 50, the proportion authorised and allowed by this present Ordinance; or, if such ship or vessel shall not be of the height between decks hereinbefore required; or, if such a platform as hereinbefore directed, shall not be laid and continued throughout the whole duration of any such voyage in such manner as is hereinbefore required; or, if there shall be more than two tiers of berths; or, if there shall not be throughout the whole duration of any such voyage such an interval as is hereinbefore prescribed between the deck and the floor of the lower tier of berths; or, if any such ship or vessel shall clear out and put to sea, not having on board such water and provisions as aforesaid, for the use and consumption of the passengers, of the kind, and to the amount and in the proportion hereinbefore directed; or, if any such ship or vessel shall be cleared out before such lists of emigrants shall have been delivered in manner and form aforesaid; or, if any such list shall be wilfully false; or, if the copy of this Ordinance be not produced as hereinbefore required; or, if any emigrant shall not be maintained during such voyage, and for 48 hours after his arrival, except in the case of a special agreement to the contrary: the master of any such ship or vessel shall, for and in respect of each and every such offence, be liable, on summary conviction before any two justices of the peace in this colony, at any time within the space of 12 calendar months next after the arrival of such master within this colony, to the payment of a fine not less than 5 *l.*, nor more than 20 *l.* British sterling; and in default of payment of such fine, either immediately or at the time fixed by such justices at the time of

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making such conviction, to imprisonment in the royal gaol for any time not less than one nor more than three calendar months.

20. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall take away or abridge any right of suit or action which may accrue to any emigrant in any such ship or vessel, or to any other person, in respect of the breach or non-performance of any contract made or entered into between or on the behalf of any such emigrant or other person, and the master, owner, or owners of any such ship or vessel.

21. And be it enacted, that where any act, matter, or thing, is by this Ordinance directed to be done or performed by, to, or with the agent at any port or place, the same, in case there shall be no such agent, or such agent shall be absent or incapable to act, shall and may be done or performed by the Governor or Lieutenant-governor, or any person appointed for the purpose by the Governor or Lieutenant-governor of the port or place, if the same shall be a British possession, or by the British consul or vice-consul of the port or place, if the same shall not be a British possession from which such ship or vessel shall be cleared out.

22. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Ordinance contained in respect to the proportion to be observed between the number of passengers and the registered burthen of such ship or vessel, or in respect to the situation of the berth of such ship or vessel, or to the superficial measurement of the deck or platform of such ship or vessel, or to the provision to be laden on board such ship or vessel, or with respect to the counterpart of the list to be certified, or the certificates to be granted at the port or place of embarkation, shall extend to any ship or vessel carrying emigrants to this colony, in case where the number of persons shall not exceed one person for every five tons, old measurement, of the registered burthen of such ship or vessel, or to any case where the number of emigrants arriving in any ship or vessel at one and the same time shall not exceed the number of 12, or to any ship or vessel in the service of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Admiralty, or in the service of Her Majesty's Postmaster-general, or of the East India Company; but in all such cases no passage or maintenance money shall be allowed or paid in respect of any such emigrants, unless the Agent-general of Immigrants shall have first ascertained by personal inspection of the ship or vessel and passengers, that such emigrants have not been induced to emigrate by any fraud, or false or unreasonable representations, and that every proper care and attention has been paid by the master of such ship or vessel to the health, comfort, and safety of such emigrants during the passage, and shall have certified the same to the Governor by certificate under his hand.

23. Provided also, and be it enacted, that nothing in this Ordinance contained with respect to the counterpart of the list to be certified, or the certificates to be granted at the port or place of embarkation, shall extend to any case where any labourer of African race or descent shall come into the colony for the purpose of settling therein from any port or place not being a British possession, and for which an agent shall have been appointed, and at which there shall not be any resident British consul or vice-consul.

24. And be it enacted, that this Ordinance shall take effect from and immediately after the passing of the same.

Passed in Council this 19th day of April 1839..

Resolved by the Council of Government that the following places be appointed, and that the several sums of money set opposite such places respectively be the rates of passage and maintenance on board to be allowed in respect of immigrants of African race or descent arriving from such places respectively :—

	Dols.		*Dols.*
From Grenada - - - -	5	From Montserrat - - - -	14
— Tobago - - - -	4	— Antigua - - - - -	14
— Carriacou and the Grenadines	6	— Tortola - - - - -	16
— St. Vincent - - - -	8	— Bahamas - - - -	25
— Barbadoes - - - -	10	— United States of America -	25
— St. Lucia - - - -	10	— The British Possessions of North America, excepting the Canadas	25
— Dominica - - - -	12	— The Canadas - - - -	30
— St. Kitt's and Nevis - -	14		

And whereas it is expedient that the immigration provided for in the Ordinance above recited should not take place from any part of the coast of Africa, nor from such other places as Her Majesty's Government may now or henceforward see cause to exclude, it is ordered, that so much of the above-recited Ordinance as refers to the introduction of emigrants from any part of Africa shall be and the same is hereby disallowed, and that the provisions thereof shall be applicable only in respect of such places as shall be designated by proclamation of the Governor or Lieutenant-governor, or officer administering the government of Trinidad, issued from time to time under instructions to be to him conveyed by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State: and whereas by the seventh clause of the above recited Ordinance it is enacted, that the advice and consent of the Council of Government shall be required for the appointment by the Governor of the agents

nance,

therein mentioned, and it is expedient that the said agent should be appointed, removed, and controlled by the authority of the Executive Government solely, it is hereby ordered, that so much of the above-recited Ordinance as requires the advice and consent of the Council of Government for the appointment of the agents aforesaid shall be disallowed and the same is hereby disallowed accordingly.

And whereas it is not expedient that encouragement be given to any proceedings whereby the natural proportion between the sexes shall be disturbed in the colony aforesaid or elsewhere, it is hereby ordered, that the Governor or Lieutenant-governor thereof shall not give effect to the above-recited Ordinance, in so far as it encourages immigration, unless it be under such circumstances and with such precautions as shall ensure an equality in numbers between the male and female immigrants annually introduced under its provisions.

And whereas it is essential to the well-being of the immigrants that proper and salubrious habitations should be ready to receive them on their arrival, and that other necessary accommodation should have been duly provided, it is hereby ordered, that the Governor or Lieutenant-governor of Trinidad shall not permit the provisions of the above-recited Ordinance to be carried into effect, unless in respect of immigrants, for the reception of whom due preparation shall have been previously made according to such regulations as the said Governor or Lieutenant-governor shall have established by a public notice to be by him issued for that purpose.

And it is hereby ordered, that with the above exceptions, and subject to the above rules and qualifications, the above-recited Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby confirmed and allowed.

And the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions here accordingly.

(signed) *W. L. Bathurst.*

No. 6.

TRINIDAD.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 8th day of December 1840.

Present:—The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS on the 30th day of September 1839, an order was made by Her Majesty in Council, confirming and allowing, with certain exceptions, and subject to certain rules and qualifications, an Ordinance, enacted on the 19th day of April 1839, by the acting Lieutenant-governor of Trinidad, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Government thereof, for the encouragement of immigration, and for the protection of persons immigrating into that colony:

And whereas it was thereby, amongst other things, ordered that so much of the above-recited Ordinance as refers to the introduction of emigrants from any part of Africa, shall be, and the same was, thereby disallowed:

And whereas it hath appeared to Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, expedient to revoke the provision last aforesaid of the said recited Order, so far as the same extends or relates to Her Majesty's colony of Sierra Leone:

It is, therefore, hereby ordered by Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, that the provision last aforesaid of the said recited Order in Council of the 30th day of September 1839, so far as the same extends or relates to Her Majesty's colony of Sierra Leone shall be, and the same is hereby revoked.

And the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

Wm. L. Bathurst.

No. 7.

TRINIDAD.

ORDER in COUNCIL for the Protection of Persons Immigrating to the Island of Trinidad.

At the Court at Windsor, the 6th day of October 1841.

Present:—The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS, on the 30th day of September 1839, an Order was made by Her Majesty in Council, confirming and allowing, with certain exceptions, and subject to certain rules and qualifications, an Ordinance enacted, on the 19th day of April 1839, by the acting Lieutenant-governor of Trinidad, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Government thereof, for the encouragement of immigration, and for the protection of persons immigrating into that colony:

And whereas it is thereby, amongst other things, ordered, that the Governor or Lieutenant-governor of the colony aforesaid shall not give effect to the above-recited Ordi-

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nance, in so far as it encourages immigration, unless it be under such circumstances, and with such precautions as shall ensure an equality in numbers between the male and female immigrants annually introduced under its provisions:

And whereas it hath appeared to Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, expedient to revoke the provision last aforesaid of the said recited Order:

It is, therefore, hereby ordered by Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, that the provisions last aforesaid of the said recited Order in Council, of the 30th day of September 1839, shall be, and the same are hereby revoked:

And it is hereby ordered, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or Lieutenant-governor of Trinidad, after the passing of this present Order, to give effect to the above recited Ordinance, in so far as it encourages immigration, provided that in every case where immigrants are imported, under the provisions of the above recited Ordinance, one-third, at least, of such immigrants shall consist of females:

And the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

Wm. L. Bathurst.

II.—JAMAICA.

Appendix II.

JAMAICA.

— No. 1. —

No. 1. Governor Sir C. T. Metcalfe to Lord Stanley, 26 April 1842.

(No. 118.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, Bart. G.C.B. to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, King's House, 26 April 1842.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 1st March, No. 56, I do not find that there is any general complaint of the Pound Law, such as has occurred to Mr. Fyffe. The enclosed note, by Mr. Hill, contains some observations showing his view of the defects in that law, which like many other laws is no doubt susceptible of amendment, and will receive it when the Legislature regards the expediency as sufficiently urgent.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe.*

Encl. in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

THE POUND LAW, Despatch No. 56, 1 March 1842.

I AM not aware of the acts of violence complained of by Mr. Fyffe. No doubt instances of such acts do occur, but systematic violence of the character he mentions, namely, the killing and turning out strays maimed on the highway, arising out of the defects of the Pound Law, have not come before the magistrates of the parish of St. Catherine, though their attention has been occasionally, and within the last week in particular, drawn to the deficiency and the insufficiency of the Pound enactment.

The law permits the pounding of stock straying on lands occupied by or in the possession of the party impounding. It does not limit it to enclosed lands into which strays have broken and done damage. The consequence is, that if a fit of spitefulness should possess the proprietor of the open commons, which form so large a portion of the lands about plantations and settlements, an incautious and confiding neighbour turning out his stock to feed where no damage can be done, and no injury complained of, is frequently harassed by poundage to such an amount as to work ruin in a week. I have known very recently instances in which this unneighbourly warfare has subjected proprietors of grazing farms to 50*l.* of poundage in a week.

It is not generally known, that where actual and ascertainable damage has been done by stock trespassing on cultivated and enclosed lands, an Act of 33 Charles 2, c. 10, s. 1, gives a summary remedy by assessment of damages by three freeholders, one to be chosen by each party, and one by the adjudicating justice of the peace. The plantations or fields entitled to this remedy must be shown to have had sufficient fences. This enactment should not be permitted to be a detached Act, separate and distinct from the existing Pound Law, but should be incorporated with it. For mere trespass, where no positive injury has been done, the present Act seems a sufficient protection. It requires, however, recasting, for the phraseology is loose and indistinct, and as the law does not state to what purposes the penalties or forfeitures are to be applied, nor in what manner costs are to be assessed, the fines and costs cannot be enforced when the party will not pay the penalty in court. There should be a clause also declaring an inhabitant of the parish a good witness, though fines be made applicable to parochial purposes, for exceptions to the statute are taken on these grounds.

The law of 33 Charles 2, c. 10, referred to, is not included in the report of the commissioners on old and obsolete laws, just presented to the Governor, Council and Assembly, it is therefore intended to retain it untouched by legislation.

— No. 2. —

No. 2. Governor Sir C. T. Metcalfe to Lord Stanley, 26 April 1842.

(No. 120.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, Bart. G.C.B. to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, King's House, 26 April 1842.

REFERRING to parts of your Lordship's despatch of March 1st, No. 56, and to my reply of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from Mr. King, detailing a plan adopted by him for manufacturing sugar from canes produced by the owners of small freeholds. It seems to be an advantageous plan for both parties concerned, and will, I hope, succeed, in which case it will no doubt spread.

2. I also submit an interesting paper by Mr. Hill on the "Métairie System as applicable to the Sugar Colonies," containing likewise a notice on the law and practice on similar subjects in Hayti.

3. I am not aware that any attempt has been made in Jamaica to introduce either the Métairie system or the cultivation of estates by labourers as tenants, except in the case of Mr. King. But there are such obvious advantages in such arrangements, where the owners have not the means of making the large advances required for money wages, that it may, I conceive, be expected that something of the kind will gain ground.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe.*

Enclosure in No. 2.

Encl. in No. 2.

Sir, Stoney Hill Pen, 18 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, which came to hand on Saturday evening last, and wherein you state that his Excellency the Governor, understanding that I have organised a system of sugar cultivation by small independent freeholders, grinding and manufacturing the article on part proceeds, is desirous that I should furnish him with as full a report upon the working and practical results of the system as may be in my power.

It would afford me much gratification could I, on the present occasion, inform his Excellency of the successful result of my plan; but unfortunately it is not yet in operation; the want of funds having much retarded the progress of the machinery and other apparatus necessary for the manufacture of sugar, and which are not yet completed owing to the same cause, much to the disappointment of some of the small settlers, who have had canes fit to grind, and who are interested in the scheme. But as his Excellency is pleased to take an interest in this, as he does in every other project which may prove advantageous to the island of Jamaica, perhaps a detail of the system I propose may not be unacceptable. It is simply this: I proposed to several of the small freeholders and other numerous settlers of the same class in the neighbourhood, that if they would each cultivate any quantity of canes I would be at the expense of erecting a set of works at a convenient spot on my property, on a small scale, and would convey their canes to the mill and manufacture the article at my own cost, dividing with each equally the proceeds.

All those to whom I have made the proposal have readily entered into the plan, and many are only waiting the completion of my little buildings to commence in good earnest, as they do not like to plant to any extent until certain of having their crop taken off before spoiling. I have also proposed to let out portions of my own land, without charge, upon the same terms; this has also been approved of. I have, therefore, every reason, under Divine blessing, to be most sanguine of ultimate success.

I feel assured that the plan might be beneficially extended and applied to any district favourable to the culture of the cane. There is one reason which appears to me to ensure success: it is this, that the powerful motive of self interest on the part of the cultivator, the small freeholder, is enlisted in its favour; he has a direct personal interest in the proceeds which the labourer does not in the remotest degree possess, in the general system of sugar cultivation now in practice on the estates; and with the same attention which he usually bestows upon his provision-grounds, which are always in excellent order, one acre of canes, though he gets but one half the proceeds, will yield him more than he could possibly obtain from the same quantity of land by the cultivation of ground provisions. In order to carry out my plan still further, I propose, as soon as I have the means, to erect another small set of sugar works on another part of my property, for the convenience and in the neighbourhood of some numerous small freeholders and others who are rather distant from the one now in progress. Thus might a property have two or more of these small establishments in convenient parts for small settlers. The buildings should not be on that large and expensive scale at present in use on sugar estates, as this would defeat the object. I should mention that the small settlers, particularly in this part of the parish of St. Andrew, grow vast quantities of canes for the purpose of sale in the Kingston market; but one man who rents some land adjoining my property, having more than he could well dispose of in this way, got them manufactured into sugar on an estate in the neighbourhood, and received as his portion of the proceeds four barrels. This circumstance was one which suggested to my mind the plan I have adopted.

I have endeavoured in the foregoing, though I fear imperfectly, to lay before his Excellency a detailed statement of the system I have in view, in place of the more desirable one of its practical results, which I so much regret not being able to give.

Appendix II.

JAMAICA.

May I be permitted, as a private individual, to express the deep concern I feel in common with my fellow colonists at the approaching departure of his Excellency from these shores, and to add my sincere and fervent wishes and prayers for his future health and happiness, and for the bestowment of every other blessing which gratitude can desire.

Captain Higginson,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John King.*

THE METAIRIE SYSTEM, as applicable to the Sugar Colonies.

I KNOW of no instance, in which a system of labour, having any affinity to the Métairie system of the south of Europe, or that of the ancient Coloni Partiarii, has been attempted in Jamaica, except a modification of the mulctures of the old law, adopted by Mr. King in St. Andrew's. Mr. King's system has nothing to do with the tenure on which the land is held and cultivated. In a locality in which there are many small freehold settlers, and where the constant demand of the retailers of a large city like Kingston presents a ready market for the commodity, he undertakes on part proceeds to manufacture into sugar the canes they may grow, and bring to his mill. I am informed by a friend of Mr. King's, that he finds this arrangement lucrative, and the people readily grow canes, as a profitable return for the value of the land and the expenses of cultivation.

In the Parliamentary Papers, published March 1836, "On the State of Agriculture and the Condition of the Population in Europe," a comprehensive statement of the Métairie system is given under the report on French agriculture in the department of the Gironde. "The following system, when the land is not cultivated by the proprietor alone, is almost universally adopted :—A certain quantity of land, which is called a 'Métairie,' is given by the proprietor for a term of years to a competent person called a 'Métayer,' under these conditions :—The proprietor finds a habitation with all the necessary appurtenances. He finds the cattle necessary for the labour of the land, as well as the implements. Generally, he finds manure, and, the first years, all the necessary seeds. All other expenses are at the charge of the 'métayer.' A sufficient quantity of the produce is first set apart for the following year's seed, and the remainder is divided between the proprietor and the métayer. The above applies to arable land. Wherever cattle, sheep, &c., are bred, their produce is divided between the two parties. The extent of these 'métairies' varies according to the number of the family of the métayer, and the nature of the soil, from 65 journaux (52 statute acres) to 30 journaux (24 acres), for the métayer generally endeavours to cultivate the land he holds without the help of hired servants or labourers." "The farmer, or métayer, unless by some particular agreement with the landlord, is only subject to the 'impôts personnel et mobilier,' which are taxes levied in proportion to his situation and means, on his own person as head of the family, and on his household furniture and utensils."

There is no doubt that a similar system of partitionary cultivation might be adopted in these colonies, if its practicable results were first worked out by a body of labourers free from any of the preconceived prejudices against contracts which prevail among our labourers. They apprehend that such obligations will bind them to incidents similar to those of the apprenticeship law; they are therefore disinclined to any bargains which subject the benefits to be derived by labour to remote and complicated contingencies. If they saw by the mutual results to proprietor and labourer, that such a system satisfied the one while it was sufficiently profitable to the other; that it left them perfectly free from anything like personal restraint, or coercion, with respect to the independent pursuits of their wives and children, in the several circumstances of the cottage and the garden, which are their means of ready money traffic in the provision market, I have little doubt they would come into it. No indisposition prevails among the negro labourers to give a long credit for day labour, such a credit as extends to the close of the crop, where confidence has been once created by a faithful discharge of the obligations of the estate, and a kindly spirit in the intercourse between employer and employed has been once established. I mention as an instance, the Foster Estates in St. Elizabeth's, under the management of Mr. William Foster; and many incidents of a ready reliance on the integrity of a well known and respected proprietor might be found in the numerous occurrences of plantation job-work. The theory of such a system as the Métairie is excellently detailed in the Rural Code of Haiti, in No. III. of that law, chap. 1, and articles 51 to 55.

The following are the articles referred to :

51. Whenever, on sugar plantations, the labour shall be done for half of the produce, the proprietor, before the division is made, shall deduct a fifth part of the gross produce as an equivalent for the hire of machinery, utensils, cattle, &c., employed in carrying on the work, and for the expense of repairs. In the culture of other articles the amount of the expenses caused by the rent, or by the charge of carrying on the work, shall be deducted previous to division.

52. The cultivators contracting to labour for a fourth part of the returns they produce, shall have for their share a fourth part of the gross of all they raise. They shall also enjoy the whole of what they raise in their own private gardens, cultivated by themselves during their hours or days of rest.

53. Whenever, in the great plantations of sugar, coffee, cotton, and indigo, the season shall require that the labour should be pressed with activity, the different associations labouring for half, employed on the same plantation, shall mutually assist each other in their labours, giving and repaying to each other an equal number of days' labour. The administrator of the property shall regulate this kind of mutual aid.

54. When

54. When the products or crops, whatever they be, shall be prepared and collected, whether they proceed from labourers working for a fourth, or associations labouring for a half, they cannot be removed from the property where they were grown, until a division shall have taken place between the proprietor or chief renter, and the cultivators labouring for a fourth, or associations for a half of the produce.

55. Upon sugar plantations, the division of the shares coming to the cultivators shall be made after the grinding of each piece of canes. On the plantations where they only cultivate provisions or grain, or cut wood for firewood or for charcoal, or for cabinet work or building, or raise fodder, or are engaged in other irregular works, the division shall be made to the workmen only every six months. On other plantations, as of coffee, cotton, cocoa, indigo, &c., the division shall take place at the end of the respective crops."

I have said the theory of such a system is excellently detailed, because very little of the "Code Rural" being in operation, from the numerous concessionary grants, which make so great a majority of the population small freeholders, there is not necessarily existing, except in few instances, the state of things implied by the term "sugar plantations," and "cultivators contracting to labour;" yet when I was in St. Domingo, in the years 1830 and 1831, I had an opportunity of seeing something of the practicability of such a system, and I introduce here an extract from the notes I then made with reference to it.

"The machinery of Chateau Blond, an estate in the Cul-de-sac plain, belonging to General Lerborn, erected at very considerable expense, (steam machinery), is designed not merely for the supply of its own wants in the elaboration of sugar, but for those of the neighbouring plantations, which may be without the means of manufacturing that article. The mulcture, to use the old feudal term, paid to the proprietor of the mill, is one-fourth of the inspissated juice, when boiled into the syrup of the third copper. The law limits him to one-fifth in his contracts with his cultivator; but with any other class of persons he is at liberty to bargain as he can. In the fore part of the week, during crop time, they cut their canes and grind them off when a sufficiency is accumulated. The labourers, men and women, in the mill and the boiling-house, perform their work occasionally by night as well as by day. Their scheme of cultivation is to allot themselves by families, and to cultivate unitedly one division of the estate, receiving the reward of their labour in a portion of what they cultivate and manufacture in their division, according to the prescriptions of the Code Rural. It frequently occurs that the number of persons thus associated are not able to proceed with sufficient celerity in the work of grinding and boiling the proceeds of the number of acres under their management and tillage; in such case the gangs are obliged to hire help from their neighbours, or from the other gangs who have no part in their allotment. In this way the work is conducted in Chateau Blond. There is in this arrangement, which has originated out of views of interest and convenience in the cultivators themselves, so much of calculation individually made, so much of contract mutually entered into, that it would be the highest absurdity to suppose that such men underwent anything in the nature of labour stimulated by any other compulsion than that of the advantage they reap from it. They select their "conductors" as an association would their chairman, or a benefit club their secretary and treasurer, not to drive them unwillingly to labour, but as one deputed to manage their collective interest in their bargain with the proprietor of the soil."

At Moquet, a neighbouring plantation, where I happened to be on a Saturday, the general market day, I had an opportunity of observing other features of this system, of not less practical importance in plantation economy. "I observed at the door of the sugar works some half dozen panniered asses, and women and men in their clean market dresses, engaged in the turmoil of apparent traffic. A number of gourds, recently filled with syrup, were arranged on the ground, or placed in the panniers; other empty ones were being filled at the coolers; and for the syrup so supplied, money was received by the manager at the boiling-house door. I found these were the cultivators of the property, who came hither to purchase for the weekly market the produce from whose sale they were eventually to draw their division of property. This is the usual practice. The circumstance is important, not merely as showing in part the demands for home consumption, but as exhibiting, and so it was pointed out to me, a most valuable moral feature in the existing operation of the rural law. As each person draws a share from the entire proceeds of the estate, it becomes each person's interest to see that no part of the property be diminished by theft. Every one is obviously interested in concentrating all his market purchases at the mills at which he derives a relative profit. Hence every week of the crop realizes a cash sale of some part of the proceeds, through the dealings of the cultivators themselves, while a principle of rigid honesty is established in the management of the general concerns."

It will be observed that the articles of the rural code which I have quoted, state, that the cultivators "shall enjoy the whole of what they raise in their private gardens, cultivated by themselves during their hours or days of rest." To keep this permission from running into such an extension of cultivation in the undivided proceeds, as would induce the labourer to expend his strength on that portion of the plantation appropriated to the tillage of market provisions, while he only languidly toiled through the time devoted to the partitionary staple, a certain relation of quantity was established between the two kinds of culture; and the extension of the provision-gardens was permitted without restraint as long as that relation of extension between the two tillages was maintained.

If such relation between the culture for the market and for the plantation had been reduced to a system when (on the termination of the apprenticeship) those controversies on this subject ensued on one of the most valuable estates of this neighbourhood, (Bushy-park, St. Dorothy's), which ended in the labourers withdrawing themselves from it as a labouring

Appendix II.

JAMAICA.

tenantry, because they were prohibited from cultivating any garden grounds with their cottages, that estate, situated in one of the most fertile plains of the island, and commanding advantages in the best machinery and in the most abundant supply of water, instead of turning out the least beneficially managed investment of the colony, would have proved the most lucratively conducted plantation.

There is no doubt that the Métairie system would be productive of the best practical consequences to plantation economy in the West India colonies, both as to processes for meliorating the soil, and for reducing the expenditure of labour by more efficient modes of tillage than the rude expedients now resorted to. Exertions which improved the returns to the planter would increase the crop to the contracting labourer, and the several agricultural societies which annually give prizes for competitions at the plough, would find the community in which these exhibitions occurred not, as now, merely lookers-on at a feat of skill in husbandry which economised the proprietor's expenditure of labour, but as one which increased their own gains by a better process of tillage in the fields in which they reaped a joint harvest with the master they served.

— No. 3. —

No. 3.
Sir C. T. Metcalfe, Bart. G.C.B. to Lord Stanley.
6 May 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Honourable Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, Bart. G.C.B. to Lord *Stanley*.

(No. 125.)

My Lord, King's House, 6 May 1842.

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Lordship's information, a copy of a Report from the Manager of the Jamaica Silk Company, addressed to the Directors of that institution.

I have, &c.

C. T. Metcalfe.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE JAMAICA SILK COMPANY.

Gentlemen,

30 April 1842.

I WOULD respectfully submit to you the following report, as the result in part of my experience of 18 months in Jamaica, and as my firm and conscientious belief of what may and will be done if our arrangements are carried out. In all my small crops of worms fed in every month and in all weathers, as well as the first large crop to fill the cocoonery in March last, the result has been uniformly the same, viz. more favourable than even the native country of the silk-worm, China: and notwithstanding that we had rain on 25 days out of 30 employed in feeding the crop, with the doors and windows open night and day, the worms continued perfectly healthy, and produced 20 lbs. of silk to the ounce of eggs, while in Europe seven lbs. only is obtained, even with double the labour and expense, and even then it is a precarious crop, on account of the changeable seasons; and even in China artificial heat is necessary, and the utmost care and attention.

Jamaica then is the country for silk-worms, and most certainly for the mulberry tree, and it is decided by the actual results of this crop that silk to any extent may be raised for exportation at an expense far below my original estimate of 3 *s.* sterling per lb., as I will show from actual amounts paid; and adding the interest of six per cent. on the whole capital of 30,000 *l.* paid up, the cost will not exceed 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per lb., which has averaged in value 22 *s.* for the last three years, as per report recently received.

We have fed in this crop worms sufficient for 200 lbs. of silk; but as it will require a large stock of eggs, six months old, to go on with our monthly crops, I have thought it indispensably necessary that we should reel but 10 or 12 lbs. of the present and succeeding crop, and to permit all the remainder to hatch out. The millers are now rapidly depositing their eggs. I have now 12 to 15 lbs. of perfectly reeled silk, with which I propose to proceed to England in the next packet, and lay before the President of the Board of Trade, with a request, to have it examined by brokers, and finally manufactured, that its intrinsic value, compared with the silk of other countries, may be known; a report of which will be transmitted to you immediately on its receipt. An acre of land yields in Jamaica 10,000 lbs. of leaves for crop, of the age of one year, to be cut down every three months; four crops of leaves 40,000 lbs.; 80 lbs. of leaves will make one pound of silk; 500 lbs. of reeled silk will be the produce of an acre. The Company have now equal to 200 acres in mulberry trees, and constantly planting, equal to the production of 500 lbs. of reeled silk per acre, making 100,000 lbs. of silk per year. The plantation, when completely filled (350 acres), will produce 185,000 lbs., which will increase in quantity for many years, as the roots increase in strength.

The actual cost of silk for wages paid is, for gathering the leaves (80 lbs.) 3 *d.*; feeding them out, 2 *d.*; gathering the cocoons when finished, 2 *d.*; reeling the silk, 1 *s.* 3 *d.* per lb.; making, 1 *s.* 10 *d.* per lb. Add interest on the whole capital of 30,000 *l.* paid up, 8 *d.* per lb.* of reeled silk; 2 *s.* 6 *d.* will be the cost, making no allowance for the value of the waste or floss silk, which will nearly pay the interest; nor for the present and increasing value of the plantation, buildings, machinery, &c.

We have now everything requisite but a sufficient number of cocooneries; and in order to make our plantation immediately available, I would propose to procure light fire-proof iron cocooneries from England, to be contracted for, deliverable at St. Ann's Bay by September next: it is believed that time and expense will be saved by so doing, and permanent buildings be obtained.

* On 100,000 lbs. silk is equal to 4,166 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* instead of 1,800 *l.* interest at 6 per cent. on 30,000 *l.*

On view of the very satisfactory result of all our experiments and of the certainty of the immense returns to be derived from the plantation, I would respectfully propose to the Directors that the unpaid calls should forthwith be paid up to meet the current expenses, and that all the unsubscribed scrip shares of the Company be filled up and signed, and forwarded to an agent in London, to be disposed of at not less than 20 *l.* per share, paid up in full. Funds may be thus obtained sufficient to pay off all the bonds of the Company, furnish cocooneries, and carry out our plans in full, to the immediate production of silk for exportation, without making any further call on the present shareholders.

(signed) *Samuel Whitmarsh,*
Kingston, 30 April 1842. Manager Jamaica Silk Company.

— No. 4. —

(No. 129.)

No. 4.
Governor Sir C. T. Metcalfe to Lord Stanley.
14 May 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Hon. Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*, Bart. G.C.B. to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, King's House, 14 May 1842.

I HAVE the honour to submit a statement of convictions for crime in Jamaica, in the years 1838–39, 1839–40, and 1840–41. I am indebted for the preparation of this document to Mr. Lambert, one of the stipendiary magistrates, who has taken great pains to make it accurate.

I am sorry to observe that it exhibits a gradual increase of crime during the three years; but it may be that crimes have latterly been more universally brought to light and punishment, by the aid of the police.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. T. Metcalfe.*

STATEMENT of the NUMBER and NATURE of CONVICTIONS for all Offences in the County Courts of Assize and Parochial Courts of Quarter Sessions, holden in the Island of *Jamaica*, during a period of Three Years, ending the 31st August 1841.

No.	NATURE of OFFENCES.	NUMBER of CONVICTIONS. Years ending 31 August 1839.	1840.	1841.	TOTAL, 3 Years.
1	Murder	1	1	3	5
2	Attempt to murder	-	1	-	1
3	Manslaughter	6	6	6	18
4	Cutting, maiming, &c.	5	1	1	7
5	Rape	1	1	6	8
6	Attempt to rape	6	8	7	21
7	Kidnapping	-	1	-	1
8	Concealment of birth, &c.	2	2	1	5
9	Sodomy	1	1	-	2
10	Bestiality	2	1	2	5
11	Attempt at ditto	-	-	2	2
12	Aggravated assaults	58	53	51	162
13	Assaults on magistrates	6	2	1	9
14	Assault and resisting constable	1	1	-	2
15	Rescue from custody	-	5	-	5
16	Common assaults	52	60	46	158
17	Riot and assault	14	11	28	53
18	Conspiracy and riot	-	-	1	1
19	Exciting to a breach of the peace	-	1	-	1
20	Contempt of magistrate	2	5	-	7
21	Forcible entry	-	2	-	2
22	Libel and slander	1	4	-	5
23	Arson	1	2	2	5
24	Burglary	7	10	15	32
25	Highway robbery	1	2	-	3
26	Attempt at ditto	-	-	1	1
27	Stealing from the person	-	-	-	1
28	Stealing from dwelling-house	10	14	9	33
29	Entering dwelling-house intending to steal	1	1	2	4
30	Stealing from warehouse	-	4	-	4
31	Larceny	308	342	427	1,077
32	Receiving stolen goods	18	12	20	50
33	Embezzlement	6	24	29	59
34	Horse stealing	14	21	26	61
35	Cattle stealing	2	2	5	9
36	Ass stealing	1	1	1	3
37	Accessary to ditto before the fact	1	-	-	1
38	Sheep stealing	6	2	3	11
39	Perjury	1	1	1	3
40	Bigamy	-	-	1	1
41	Forgery	1	-	-	1
42	Uttering forged notes	1	-	2	3
43	Uttering base coin	1	-	-	1
44	Obtaining goods by false pretence	4	9	9	22
45	Compounding felony	-	1	1	2
46	Practising "myalism"	2	1	-	3
47	Killing horses and cattle	-	1	1	2
48	Maiming horses and cattle	4	1	5	10
49	Second escape	3	4	7	14
50	First escape	11	25	25	61
		562	646	747	1,955

R. Sydney Lambert, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

III.—British Guiana.

— No. 1. —

(No. 4.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government-house, Demerara, 6 January 1842.

No. 1. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 6 January 1842.

I had yesterday the honour of receiving your Lordship's circular of date 29th November, transmitting printed copies of a correspondence with the Lieut.-governor of Trinidad and the Governor of Sierra Leone, respecting the alteration in the rate of wages that had taken place in that island, and expressing your Lordship's opinion that any such reduction must be regarded as a breach of faith with respect to emigrants who had arrived in the colony, or might be on their passage thither, under expectations which had been held out to them of a different nature.

I regret to inform your Lordship, that within the last few days a determination has been almost universally expressed by the planters of this colony to adopt measures similar to those which are reported to have taken place in Trinidad in regard to the remuneration of labour.

A. Enclosed, your Lordship will receive a copy of printed rules and regulations intended to be observed on the west coast of Demerara.

B. As soon as the existence and circulation of this document became known to me, I directed the circular letter to be addressed to the stipendiary magistrates, of which a copy is annexed.

C. Soon after the issue of this circular, there was received from Captain Allen, the stipendiary magistrate on the coast of Essequibo, a letter and enclosures, of which, with the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-general, copies are also herewith enclosed.

D. As Mr. Rose, the proprietor of Plantation Lima, was mentioned in Captain Allen's letter, as having transmitted to Essequibo the rules to be observed on plantations, I directed a letter to be written to him, of which a copy is also annexed.

Mr. Rose being too unwell to write, returned the documents (as he had been requested to do after perusal) without comment.

Finding that similar rules and regulations had been adopted in various other parts of the colony, the stipendiary magistrates were immediately apprised of the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-general, and directed to govern themselves accordingly.

Vide C.

E. I have received complaints of actual ejectment in consequence of nonconformity with these rules and regulations, but from one estate. The case is mentioned in the annexed letter from the government secretary to Captain Coleman, a stipendiary magistrate, whose report of the result of his investigation has not yet been received.

L. Yesterday and the day before, labourers from various parts of the colony came to me to inquire whether these rules and regulations had the sanction of Her Majesty or the governor, and complained of the reduction of wages, the discontinuance of allowances, the threatened destruction of their pigs, and the imposition of a fine for not working on the estate, &c. &c.

I found these people extremely moderate and reasonable when I explained to them my inability to interfere in the fixing of a rate of wages, and contented when they were assured that the stipendiary magistrates would afford them redress for any act of illegality actually committed against them by their employers.

They appeared deeply mortified at the ungracious manner in which the regulations had been suddenly notified to them, without previous explanation; and when the great difference between past and present prices of colonial produce was pointed out to them, they declared that the reduction of wages affected them not so much as various others of the proposed regulations.

They expressed themselves most respectfully and intelligently, and gave constant and, as I am firmly persuaded, most sincere assurances of their confidence in the protection of the laws, and of their peaceable submission to them, and I confidently hope that in a short time a mutual good understanding will be restored.

M. In consequence of the accompanying letter from the high sheriff, and its enclosure from two local justices of the peace, I directed the annexed communication to be addressed to that officer, and shall act according to the nature of the report I may receive from the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Lockhart Mure.

N.

O. I received a letter addressed by that magistrate to the high sheriff in the course of the forenoon, of which I have the honour to forward a copy, with a copy of my minute on that letter.

In the meantime, a deputation of labourers from Blankenburgh estate alluded to, came to me, were satisfied with my explanations, and promised to return to their estate, and would give no cause of complaint against them.

Copy G. In the evening I received a letter from Mr. Mure, that my presence was not necessary at Blankenburgh.

A few

A few only of the Africans from Sierra Leone have expressed to me as yet their discontent at their situation in this colony. I have annexed a list of their names.

I sent a minute to the Emigration Committee with a letter to Mr. Hackett, the agent-general for emigrants, of which a copy is annexed.

The committee, being composed of the non-official section of the Court of Policy, and in possession of your Lordship's despatch to the Lieut.-governor of Trinidad of 18th November 1841, may perhaps use their influence with the planters to relax the new rules and regulations in favour of this class of emigrants, who are certainly the most useful description of labourers that can be imported.

Your Lordship will regret with me, that the planters should have been so imprudent as to join in attempting to impose on the labourers rules and regulations of so offensive and stringent a nature as those which I have had the honour of laying before you, and which, if even lawful, the movers of them must have known would create such disaffection, and could not possibly be enforced.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 1.

(A.)

RULES and REGULATIONS for the Employment of Labourers on Plantations, West Coast, Demerara, from and after 1st January 1842.

Enclosure in No. 1.

1. EVERY field labourer is expected to turn out at seven o'clock; and any labourer not present at the work by eight o'clock, without good cause, to the satisfaction of the manager, shall be deemed absent without leave, and should any labour be performed by such party, it will not be paid for: and every labourer employed in the manufacture of sugar will be at work at five o'clock, and any person who shall not be at work at the buildings by six o'clock, shall forfeit half a day's wages.

2. No labourer shall be paid for less than an agreed daily task, except in cases of sickness or other valid cause, to the satisfaction of the manager.

3. Nothing in the shape of allowances or gratuities will hereafter be given.

4. No labourer, not employed by the estate, shall be allowed or permitted to occupy apartments thereon, without a special agreement with the manager.

5. Any labourer refusing, or not performing the work as ordered, will not be paid for the performance of any other description of work, and shall be considered as absent without leave.

6. For the due and faithful performance of each and every field task hereunder mentioned, the sum of 4 bitts, or 32 cents, will be paid in cash, on demand, except when canes have been burned, when the sum of 3 bitts, or 24 cents, will be paid per task for cutting such canes, or relieving such land.

CANE CULTIVATION.

Description of Work.	Work to be Performed.
Digging new navigable canals, 12 feet wide and 5 feet deep, and throwing the ground on both sides	500 cubic feet.
Throwing back a 6-foot parapet from the above, and levelling the ground	60 feet in length.
Digging new punt trenches as above, when the ground is all thrown on one side	400 cubic feet.
Throwing back 6-foot parapets from the above	40 feet in length.
Digging new small drains 2 × 2, land cleared	15 roeds.
Throwing out small drains 1 foot deep	42 roeds.
Holing or banking land 2½ × 2½	30 roeds.
Shovel ploughing new holed land a shovel deep, and rounding beds	60 roeds.
Hoe ploughing and planting one row of the above with two rows of plants, the plants being on the parapets	50 roeds
Weeding, moulding, and supplying plant canes first time in holed land	75 roeds of 1 row.
Weeding and moulding plant canes second time	86 roeds.
Weeding and moulding ratoons	100 roeds.
Weeding and trashing canes	100 roeds.
Cutting and carrying canes, where the carriage does not exceed 18 roods	250 cubic feet.
Relieving and tying trash	100 roeds.
Supplying only first time	100 roeds.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Description of Work.	Work to be Performed.
Relieving and supplying at same time	50 roeds.
Shovel ploughing a space between (2 feet wide) cane rows	50 roeds.
Drilling 2 feet wide, one shovel deep	30 roeds.
Punt-men bringing home canes, to receive	4 bitts or 32 cents.
Men throwing canes at the mill, when four only are employed	5 bitts or 40 cents.
Men in green megas trucks, when two only are employed	5 bitts or 40 cents.
Engine firemen	6 bitts or 48 cents.
Boilermen	6 bitts or 48 cents.
Or 12 bitts or 96 cents. of each hhd. of sugar made, to be divided amongst them.	
Plantain Cultivation.	
Weeding and trimming plantain walks	6 labourers to 1 acre.
Digging plantain suckers	160 each labourer.
Ditto holes for ditto, 15 inches square	100 ditto.
Planting ditto, suckers at hand	125 ditto.
Coffee Cultivation.	
Digging holes 18 inches square for coffee plants	100 each labourer.
Planting coffee in the above, the plants being on the spot	85 each labourer.
Weeding coffee, and pulling off water sprouts and vines from the trees	6 labourers to 1 acre.
It is impossible to fix any scale of task-work for picking coffee, as the quantity to be picked by each individual must entirely depend upon the quantity of ripe fruit on the trees.	
Trimming coffee trees after crop, and cutlassing vines on the trees	5 labourers to 1 acre.
Assorting first quality coffee, after being stamped, winnowed, and sifted	120 lbs.
Inferior and drift coffee	60 lbs.
Cutting bunches of plantains and carrying them in punts to the buildings, where the head carriage does not exceed 100 roods	65 bunches to each labourer.

7. Any labourer performing more than one task will be paid at the same rate as the amount fixed by Regulation No. 6, for any number of tasks.

8. A roster or list of labourers will be kept in the boiling-house, by which all parties may ascertain their turn for building duty.

9. Any labourer absenting himself or herself from work without leave or sufficient cause, will be required to pay 2 bitts or 16 cents for every such absent day.

10. The labourers are required to furnish themselves with all tools.

11. No plantains or other produce will be sold to the labourers or others on this estate below the market price.

12. No person whomsoever shall be permitted, without especial leave in writing from the manager, to hunt, shoot, fish, cut grass, or to pick fruit on this estate.

13. Labourers employed on this estate will not have any provision-grounds allowed to them; if they choose to plant provisions, it must be only on sufferance, and at their own risk; and if they leave the estate, or the manager discharges them, any provisions they may have growing become the property of the estate.

14. Each labourer employed, and whose name is on the pay list, to contribute one day each (lunar month), to pay for medical and hospital expenses.

15. Labourers on this estate are not allowed to keep or raise any other but feathered stock, except by special or written agreement with the manager.

16. Every labourer who does not intend to submit to these rules is required to leave the estate on or before the 1st of January 1842, and every labourer who continues to live upon the estate after that date, is understood thereby to signify that he agrees to the rules.

Dated 31st December 1841.

(B.)

(Circular.)

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, 31 Dec. 1841.

The Governor has had under his observation a printed paper, entitled "Rules and Regulations for the employment of Labourers on Plantations, West Coast, Demerara, from and after the 1st January 1842."

The Rule numbered 16 is thus expressed: "Every labourer who does not intend to submit to these rules is required to leave the estate on or before the 1st January 1842, and every labourer who continues to live upon the estate after that date is understood thereby to signify that

that he agrees to the rules." As similar papers are believed to be very generally distributed throughout the colony, his Excellency deems it necessary to remind you that no countenance whatever should be afforded on your part to the ejection of labourers from estates, on the strength of an agreement which is implied to exist between the labourers and their employers, on grounds so vague as those contained in the above quoted rule. It will of course be your duty to enforce any agreement into which the labourers and their employers may have entered, provided it has been fully and fairly explained and understood, and voluntarily contracted. This preliminary inquiry is the more necessary to be made by you, inasmuch as the rules contemplate not merely the exaction of ordinary work, but of work to be commenced at a precise period, and want of punctuality in this respect is proposed to be visited with a forfeiture of the value of work actually performed.

The rules moreover contemplate the discontinuance of customary allowances and gratuities, not only without a pecuniary equivalent, but with a reduction of wages; and a fine in the shape of rent for absent days, equal in amount to a half-day's wages, for not working daily for the estate.

There are other points of which it is most essential that the labourer should be fully apprised, before he can be considered to have entered into the agreement adverted to in the above-mentioned 16th Rule, to which, however, the Governor thinks it unnecessary to allude in detail, as his Excellency relies that this general notice of the document will be sufficient to awaken your attention to a subject so interesting to the labouring population, and so likely, without your seasonable counsel, to create excitement.

I have, &c.

A. M. Lyons, Esq.
Stipendiary Magistrate.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(C.)

(Extract.)

Sir, District H. 30 December 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit for his Excellency's information a printed paper, 200 copies of which have been sent for circulation to this coast by the proprietor of Plantation Lima, one signed by myself, to take effect from the 1st January next.

* * * *

I shall take care that the illegal measures contemplated in Nos. 1, 9, 12, and 13 of the "Rules and Regulations" are not accomplished when officially brought to my knowledge. As at the present crisis everything is important tending to throw light on the value of labour, I annex a copy of certain data obtained from the joint proprietor of Plantation Richmond, as likewise of a letter from the same gentleman, with my reply on that subject.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(signed) *J. A. Allen,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Copy of a Memorandum made by Mr. Pearson, the Joint Proprietor of Plantation Richmond, *viz.*—CULTIVATION OF ONE ACRE OF CANES.

	Days' Labour.
Relieving and Supplying	14
Three weedings	21
Cutting and Punting to the Building	28
Boiling and Fuel	24
Drainage	7
Extras	6
TOTAL	100

(*continued*)

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

PRODUCE.

	Guilders.	Stivers.
1¼ Hogshead of Sugar at 17 *l.* per Hogshead, exchange 14 guilders to the £. sterling	297	10
Molasses, 125 gallons, at 10*s.*	62	10
Guilders	360	–
Weeding and keeping in order, &c. 100 days, (as above) at 5 bitts per day Guilders 125		
Interest of Capital, contingencies, buildings, and all other expenses „ 125		
	250	–
Profit on the cultivation of one acre of Canes Guilders	110	–

REMARKS BY CAPTAIN ALLEN.

No notice is taken of the rum, which, though trifling (about 25 gallons from the lees), would still swell the stated profit, besides that sugar may now fairly be estimated at 20 *l.* per hogshead.

The labour of "relieving and supplying," and "weeding," is calculated from the tariff of 7½ hours' work.

(signed) *J. A. Allen.*

(A true copy of copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

---

2 January 1842.

The Governor requests the Attorney and Solicitor-general to peruse the annexed rules and regulations, and to report whether a copy thereof, signed by the proprietor of an estate and published, or affixed on the buildings of the estate, or read by the manager to the labourers, is sufficient to render the said rules and regulations binding on the labourers?

2. Rules 1, 9, 12, and 13, divest the labourers of their right to claim the value of their labour; subject them to a fine for not working on the estate; infringe the ordinary rights of property, and presume that the labourers agree to such unusual deprivations and penalties, by the mere act of continuing to reside in their accustomed habitations after the notice given in the said rules.

The Attorney and Solicitor-general will report their opinion whether Rules 1, 9, 12, and 13, do not contemplate the commission of acts which are illegal, or if legal, what should be the nature and amount of evidence required to prove that such stipulations were *bonâ fide* the agreement of the labourers with their employers.

3. The Attorney and Solicitor-general will be so good as to report on the foregoing points with all convenient despatch.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

---

3 January 1842.

WE have perused his Excellency the Governor's Minute of yesterday's date, with the accompanying rules and regulations for the employment of labourers on plantations, and beg leave to report our opinion that the Rules Nos. 1, 9, 12, and 13, do contemplate the commission of acts inconsistent with the laws in force, and if suffered to be carried into practical operation, would in a great measure supersede the exercise of some of the most important duties vested in the stipendiary magistrates, under the Order in Council of the 7th of September 1838, an Order especially enacted for the protection of the rights and interests of the employer and labourer in their respective relations.

We are also of opinion that a copy of the rules, signed by the proprietor of an estate, and published or affixed on the buildings of the estate, or read by the manager to the labourer, is not sufficient to render those rules binding on the labourers.

(signed) *Henry Gloster,* Attorney-general.
William Furlonge, Solicitor-general.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Rules and Regulations for the Employment of Labourers on Plantations, Arabian Coast, Essequibo.

1. Every field labourer is expected to turn out at 7 o'clock; and any labourer not present at the work by 8 o'clock, without good cause, to the satisfaction of the manager, shall be deemed absent without leave, and should any labour be performed by such party, it will not be paid for; and every labourer employed in the manufacture of sugar will be at work at 5 o'clock.

2. No labourer shall be paid for less than an agreed daily task, except in cases of sickness or other valid cause, to the satisfaction of the manager.

3. Nothing in the shape of allowances or gratuities will hereafter be given.

4. No labourer, not employed by the estate, shall be allowed or permitted to occupy apartments thereon without a special agreement with the manager.

5. Any labourer refusing, or not performing the work as ordered, will not be paid for the performance of any other description of work, and shall be considered as absent without leave.

6. For the due and faithful performance of each and every field task hereunder mentioned, the sum of 4 bitts or 32 cents will be paid in cash, on demand.

CANE CULTIVATION.

Description of Work.	Work to be Performed.
Digging new navigable canals, 12 feet wide and 5 feet deep, and throwing the ground on both sides	500 cubic feet.
Throwing back a 6-foot parapet from the above, and levelling the ground	60 feet in length.
Digging new punt trenches as above, when the ground is all thrown on one side	400 cubic feet.
Throwing back 6-feet parapets from the above	40 feet in length.
Digging new small drains 2 × 2, land cleared	15 roods.
Throwing out small drains one foot deep	42 roods.
Holing or banking land 2½ × 2½	30 roods.
Shovel ploughing new holed land a shovel deep, and rounding beds	60 roods.
Hoe ploughing and planting one row of the above with two rows of plants, the plants being on the parapets	50 roods.
Weeding, moulding, and supplying plant canes first time in holed land	75 roods of one row.
Weeding and moulding plant canes second time	86 roods.
Weeding and moulding ratoons	100 roods.
Weeding and trashing canes	100 roods.
Cutting and carrying canes, where the carriage does not exceed 18 roods	250 cubic feet.
Relieving and tying trash	100 roods.
Supplying only first time	100 roods.
Relieving and supplying at same time	50 roods.
Shovel ploughing a space between (two feet wide) cane rows	50 roods.
Drilling two feet wide, one shovel deep	30 roods.
Puntmen bringing home canes, to receive	5 bitts or 40 cents.
Men throwing canes at the mill	5 bitts or 40 cents.
Men in green megass trucks	5 bitts or 40 cents.
Engine firemen	6 bitts or 48 cents.
Men at the clarifiers	6 bitts or 48 cents.
Boilermen	6 bitts or 48 cents.
Or 12 bitts or 96 cents for each hhd. of sugar made, to be divided amongst them.	
River puntmen	5 bitts or 40 cents.

PLANTAIN CULTIVATION.

Weeding and trimming plantain walks	6 labourers to 1 acre.
Digging plantain suckers	160 each labourer.
Ditto holes for ditto, 15 inches square	100 ditto.
Planting ditto, suckers at hand	125 ditto.

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BRITISH GUIANA.

COFFEE CULTIVATION.

Description of Work.	Work to be Performed.
Digging holes 18 inches square for coffee plants - - -	100 each labourer.
Planting coffee in the above, the plants being on the spot - -	85 ditto.
Weeding coffee, and pulling off water sprouts and vines from the trees - - - - - - - - - - - -	6 labourers to 1 acre.
It is impossible to fix any scale of task work for picking coffee, as the quantity to be picked by each individual must entirely depend upon the quantity of ripe fruit on the trees.	
Trimming coffee trees after crop, and cutlassing vines on the trees	5 labourers to 1 acre.
Assorting first quality coffee, after being stamped, winnowed, and sifted - - - - - - - - - - - -	120 lbs.
Inferior and drift coffee - - - - - - - - -	60 lbs.
Cutting bunches of plantains, and carrying them in punts to the buildings, where the head carriage does not exceed 1000 roods - - - - - - - - - - - -	65 bunches to each labourer.

7. Any labourer performing more than one task, will be paid at the same rate as the amount fixed by Regulation No. 6, for any number of tasks.

8. A roster or list of the labourers will be kept in the boiling-house, by which all parties may ascertain their turn for building duty.

9. Any labourer absenting himself or herself from work without leave or sufficient cause, will be required to pay two bitts or 16 cents for every such absent day.

10. That the labourers shall furnish themselves with all tools.

11. That no person whomsoever shall be permitted, without special leave in writing from the manager, to hunt, shoot, fish, cut grass, or to pick fruit on this estate.

12. From the 1st of January next no labourer will be allowed to keep hogs, loose or in pens, and all such found loose, or in premises belonging to the estate, after the 15th of January, will be destroyed without further notice.

13. No land or provision-grounds are attached to the cottages of this estate, and no claim for provisions planted in lands of this estate by labourers resident in these apartments, will be admitted. The occupants, by continuing to reside in these buildings after this notice, declare they agree to the foregoing regulations in all their conditions.

Dated,

(D.)

(Extract.)

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara,
3 January 1842.

Sir,

I AM desired by the Governor to forward for your perusal a letter from Stipendiary Justice Allen, a minute by his Excellency, referring the same to the Attorney and Solicitor-general for their opinion, and the report of these officers thereon.

I am also desired by the Governor to forward to you a copy of a circular letter to the stipendiary magistrates, which, previously to the receipt of Captain Allen's communication, and having reference to transactions on the west coast of Demerara, his Excellency has felt it his imperative duty to address to them. His Excellency trusts that you will see the prudence of not attempting to enforce the rules which the Attorney and Solicitor-general have reported to be inconsistent with the laws in force; and that, by an immediate withdrawal of them, you will prevent an excitement and discontent being generated which may operate injuriously to the exports of the colony.

* * * * *

His Excellency is unwilling for the present to do more than to ask you, for the common good of the colony, to use that influence which you possess over persons in charge of property to induce them to withdraw the rules in question; and thus to avoid the heart-burnings which, to their great injury, might be otherwise occasioned in the minds of the labourers; and to obviate the further publicity to which, in a contrary event, his Excellency would be compelled, for the protection of the labourers, to give to his own opinions, and those of the law officers of the Crown, on the rules and regulations to which these documents refer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young*, Government Secretary.

The Hon. Peter Rose, &c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(E.)

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara,
5 January 1842.

Sir,

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you that the enclosed paper was handed to his Exellency this morning by the bearer, who also made the following verbal statement:—

That the manager called up the labourers of the estate; read to them certain rules and regulations, from which he, in common with others, expressed his dissent. That on Monday he was ordered by the manager to work; he stated that he could not work on the terms prescribed by the regulations; that immediately thereupon the manager ordered his property to be thrown out of the house allotted to him as a labourer; that this was done, and much of it destroyed.

His Excellency desires that you will most fully investigate this case, and award such compensation to the labourer for this improper conduct of the employer, as the evidence may justify.

This letter and enclosure have been perused by the Attorney and Solicitor-general, who entertain no doubt of your jurisdiction in the case as here stated.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. E. F. Young*, Government Secretary.

Captain Coleman, &c. &c.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(G.)

Dear Sir,

Blankenburg, 6 January 1842.

I DO not think that there is any necessity for his Excellency's presence here at present. The people are much excited, and I think a stronger police force would be desirable, but I do not apprehend any alarming disturbance of the peace.

I have reported to the sheriff. My letter to him will give you further information. I write in great haste.

Yours truly, &c.
(signed) *J. O. Lockhart Mure.*

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(H.)

Sir,

Government Secretary's Office, 5 January 1842.

I AM desired by the Governor to transmit you a copy of a correspondence between the Lieutenant-governor of Trinidad and the Secretary of State, with his Lordship's directions respecting the notices which are in future to be issued by agents at the ports from whence emigrants embark for the West Indies.

His Excellency requests that you will lose no time in forwarding to the various ports, and especially to Sierra Leone, copies of the rules and regulations which are intended to be enforced in various districts of the colony; and that you will communicate the contents of this letter and its enclosures to the Immigration Committee.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. E. F. Young*,
Government Secretary.

James Hackett, Esq.
Agent General for Immigration.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Governor is under the disagreeable necessity of acquainting the Immigration Committee that he has received repeated complaints from many of the Sierra Leone labourers of the inadequacy of their wages, and of their great disappointment at their general condition and prospects in B. Guiana.

This morning a renewed representation to the above effect has been made by people of the above class from Plantations Thomas and Cumming's Lodge, in consequence of certain new rules and regulations for reducing wages, abolishing allowances and gratuities, and forbidding the possession of hogs in pens on estates, and subjecting them to the payment of medical attendance, and to a fine for not working for the estate.

Nothing that could be said to show their right of choosing employers who had not established such rules would content them; they one and all reiterated their often expressed wish to be permitted to return to Sierra Leone; and no other alternative has been left to the Governor than to report their wish to the Secretary of State, in order that they should have

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the chance of being removed in some vessel of war, or other conveyance authorised to be procured by Her Majesty's Government.

The Governor will be happy to receive from the Immigration Committee any suggestion of a plan by which to prevent this discontent operating unfavourably to future immigration from Sierra Leone.

4 January 1842. (signed) *Henry Light.*

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

NAMES, &c. of *Sierra Leone* Emigrants who this day presented themselves to demand a Passage back to *Sierra Leone*, declaring themselves to have been deceived by Agents there, and to be dissatisfied with *British Guiana*.

NAME.	WHAT FAMILY.	ON WHAT ESTATES EMPLOYED SINCE ARRIVAL.
Thomas Wilson - -	Wife, sister, and one child -	- - First at Batseba's Lust, then at (nusquam), now at Plantation Thomas.
David Jones - - -	wife and three children -	ditto, Greenfield, ditto, ditto.
Jack Long - -	- - Wife and one child (child in Sierra Leone).	ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto.
Thomas Doring - -	wife at Sierra Leone - -	ditto Batseba's Lust, ditto, ditto.
John Thomas - -	- - nil - - -	ditto Porter's Hope, ditto, ditto.
James Taylor - -	wife - - - - -	ditto Turkeyn, ditto, ditto.
Henry Conny - -	- - nil - - -	ditto Batseba's Lust, ditto, ditto.
William Davis - -	- - nil - - -	ditto Porter's Hope, ditto, ditto.
Sam Davis - - -	- - nil - - -	ditto Enmore, ditto, ditto.
Robert Edward - -	- - nil - - -	ditto Dochfour, ditto, ditto.

Georgetown, 22 December 1841.

(L.)

LIST of PLANTATIONS from which Deputations of Labourers waited on the Governor.

January 3d,	from Plant.	Hague.
—	—	Blenheim.
—	—	Vetrouwen.
January 4th	—	Vreed-en Hoop.
—	—	Thomas.
—	—	Rome and Hourton.
—	—	La Jalousie.
—	—	Endeavour.
—	—	La Grange.
—	—	Vergenoegen.
—	—	Toevlught.
—	—	Nismes.
—	—	Le Repenter.
—	—	The Best.
January 5th,	from Plant.	Ponderoyen.
—	—	Schoonoord.
—	—	Little Diamond.
—	—	Spring Hall.
January 6th	—	Good Hope.
—	—	Ruimveld.
—	—	Profit.
—	—	Vrees-en-Hope.
—	—	Groenveld.
—	—	Henry.
—	—	Baillie's Hope.
—	—	Blankenburg.
—	—	Arcadia.

(M.)

Sir, Plantation Blankenburg, 5 January 1842.

WE beg to represent to you that we were called upon by a complaint of the proprietor of this estate that the labourers were in a state of riot, and had violently assaulted the manager, who had been sent a-back to caution the people from going into the provision grounds. We accordingly came here and called up the people; at first they were in a very excited state, and even showed a disposition to attack the second undersigned.

We reasoned with them in regard to their keeping the peace; they said they would do so, but were most strenuous in demanding to see the Governor.

We beg respectfully to offer our opinion on this matter, which is, that appearances on this estate bear a very serious aspect, and that it is necessary the authorities should interfere with their advice to these deluded people.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Alexander Grant*, J.P.
Curtis A. Fleming, J.P.

Hon. G. Bagot,
High Sheriff of British Guiana, &c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(N.)

(Extract.) Government Secretary's Office, Demerara,
5 January 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE just received and submitted to the Governor your Honor's letter of this day's date, forwarding a communication from Messrs. Grant and Fleming, justices of the peace, reporting that appearances at Plantation Blankenburg have a very serious aspect, and that the interference of the authorities with advice to the labourers is necessary.

I am desired by his Excellency to request that your Honor will make known to these gentlemen that there has been under the Governor's notice a printed copy of rules and regulations for labourers on the west coast of Demerara.

A circular letter of instruction, with copies of the Attorney and Solicitor-general's opinion respecting similar rules in Essequibo, has been forwarded to the stipendiary magistrates of the west coast, as well as to all other parts of the colony; and his Excellency has had in the course of yesterday and to-day interviews with bodies of labourers, varying in number from five or six to upwards of 50, from no fewer than 20 estates in different parts of the colony.

The dissatisfaction is exclusively caused by the rules to which I have adverted.

It is not so much on account of a reduction of wages, and the discontinuance of customary allowances without any pecuniary equivalent, as from the threat that work, however well performed, after a certain hour in the morning, shall not be paid for; that a fine is imposed for not working on the estate; that hogs in pens are to be destroyed; that labourers quitting the estate are not to reap the provisions they have planted; that whilst on the estate no fishing in the trenches is to be permitted; and that an immediate ejection from the estate is to follow a non-conformity with these rules and regulations.

The wisest and most effectual means of allaying the excitement which these rules have occasioned is to withdraw them.

At all events, the interference of justices in the ordinary commission of the peace, especially if they are themselves supporters of the rules in question, should be limited to a mere reference to the stipendiary magistrate of any dispute arising out of the right of access on the part of the labourers to their own provision grounds.

His Excellency will, however, personally repair to Plantation Blankenburg, should the report of the stipendiary magistrate, to whom Messrs. Grant and Fleming's letter will be referred, not render such a step unnecessary.

I have, &c.

His Honour George Bagot,
High Sheriff.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young*,
Government Secretary.

(O.)

Sir, Blankenburg, 6 January 1842.

HAVING heard that some disturbances had taken place on this estate I came to it yesterday afternoon, and remained last night.

I was informed by Justices Grant and Fleming that they had made a report to your Honor of the circumstances which had occurred yesterday: To-day I received the complaint of Mr. ———, the manager, against two persons for beating him, and against the same and others for attacking and molesting him, and threatening to take away his life, being then armed with cutlasses and sticks.

I attempted an investigation of this complaint, but though I had three or four policemen on duty, a large number of the estates' people forced an entrance into the room in which I sat, and made so great a noise that it was impossible for me to proceed. I have adjourned the court for an hour, when I shall make another attempt to proceed with the case, and shall refer it for trial at the inferior criminal court to-morrow.

I shall be obliged by your sending me about a dozen of summonses for their attendance at Edinburgh to-morrow. The names and offences may be left blank, which I will fill up.

I think it proper to report that the police force appears to me insufficient, and that at least 12 or 14 men ought to be sent immediately. The sergeant of police has reported the same to the inspector. I do not apprehend any serious riot, but Mr. —— is much alarmed. Serious threats have been uttered even in my own presence, and a show of strength more imposing than we at present possess may be necessary, and I fear will be necessary for the preservation of the peace and the maintenance of the authority of the law.

I have, &c.

His Honor George Bagot,
High Sheriff.

(signed) *J. O. Lockhart Mure.*

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

MINUTE by the Governor.

Stipendiary Justice Wolseley will immediately repair to Plantation Blankenburg, and with Mr. Mure exhort the people in the Governor's name not to interfere with the due course of law; that the proceedings of Mr. Mure, or of the inferior criminal court, or of any other

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tribunal, will be duly submitted to the Governor's consideration, and that they may rely on ample justice being done to them.

Mr. Mure should ascertain whether the labourers were not first impeded by the manager, whilst acting lawfully in proceeding to their provision grounds; and should it be a dispute arising out of any of the relations of employer and employed, he will, in conjunction with Mr. Wolseley and another justice of the peace, form a court of petty sessions, instead of referring the case to the inferior criminal court.

The Governor is averse to the sending of so small a force of the police as that requested by Mr. Mure. Conciliation and exhortation should first be tried, and, if these fail, a larger force will be despatched.

Some people from Plantation Blankenburg are now with the Governor, and his Excellency's determination as herein expressed has been explained to them; they express the utmost submission to the laws and magistracy; and they will accompany Mr. Wolseley to the Blankenburg.

By the Governor's order,

January 6th. (signed) *H. E. F. Young*, Government Secretary.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(No. 5.) — No. 2. —

No. 2. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 7 January 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara 7 January 1842.

I HAVE this morning received Mr. Wolseley's report of his proceedings at Blankenburg, hich I have the honour to forward; it is highly satisfactory.

I am convinced that no disturbance would have taken place but for the imprudence of ıe manager, and the absence of the proprietor. My opinion proved correct, that there was ɔt the slightest grounds for sending additional police.

The affair of wages must be settled as parties think fit; and as wages were increased during the high prices of sugar, they will naturally fall to the sum paid in 1838, when sugars were about their present price; nor do I think the labourers, if reasoned with by their employers, will object to the reduction, provided the usual indulgences of cottages and provision grounds are granted.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light*.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Sir, Public Buildings, Demerara, 7 January 1842.

IN conformity with the accompanying instructions from his Excellency the Governor, grounded upon the statements contained in the annexed letter from Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure to his Honor the High Sheriff, I lost no time in proceeding to Blankenburg, and reached that estate at about six o'clock last evening, when to my great gratification, I found everything in a state of perfect tranquillity; no negroes lurking suspiciously about the road —no noise proceeding from their dwellings—not a sign of the remains, or the prospect of a disturbance; and, save the presence of a policeman, whom I found stationed on the estate, nothing to indicate either that anything serious had occurred, or was in contemplation.

The proprietor of the estate was at home, and from him I at once learnt that the manager had withdrawn his complaint against the labourers, that he (the proprietor) had given up all intention of carrying into practical operation the four numbers of the regulations condemned by the Crown lawyers; that with regard to the rules generally, he was indifferent about them; had agreed to them more for the sake of unanimity than from any other motive, and never thought of following them up with any degree of strictness; at the same time, that he was determined to reduce his wages from five to four bitts, finding it impossible at the present prices of produce to give more. After this information had been given to me by the proprietor, I expressed a desire to see some of the labourers, to which he seemed rather averse, apprehending that further excitement would result from it; but as it appeared to me necessary that I should do so, I sent for the men who had been with the Governor in the morning, requesting that they would bring with them a few of their comrades; about 20 immediately made their appearance, and with these I conversed for about an hour, giving them clearly to understand that the regulations in question had neither proceeded from Her Majesty's Government nor from his Excellency the Governor; that some of the rules were contrary to laws especially made for their protection—whilst others again were such as it was competent for any master to make with his servant, or any servant with his master; they found no fault with their employer on any other subject whatever than the proposed reduction in the rate of wages, which from the evident unwillingness of either party to yield is, I fear, not likely to be easily adjusted. The proprietor, however, is by no means disposed to use any harsh measures, but will no doubt afford them a reasonable time to make

make up their minds either to remove from or to remain on the estate. I exhorted them earnestly to avoid everything like a breach of the laws, assuring them, that although they would receive every protection against injury, the smallest exhibition of violence would certainly be punished with the utmost severity. I endeavoured to persuade them to resume their work upon an understanding, which the proprietor was willing to agree to, that they should receive payment on their usual pay-day, at whatever rate it was found had been given on other estates in the district; they seemed at first a little inclined to agree to this, and were evidently sensible of the disadvantage of earning nothing at all; but afterwards the general answer was, "No, massa, we'll wait and see." The subject of rent for houses and lands was discussed between us, and I gave them to expect that a law would probably soon be passed, which would enable their master to enforce the payment of rent for his cottages; and upon their asking me what I thought they would have to pay, I told them that the generality of the cottages on Blankenburg were worth about 100 *l.* each, and that their master, for houses of that value, might reasonably demand 10 *l.* a year, which of course for their information I explained in colonial currency. The proprietor admitted that if the rent system had been in force, he should not object to give five bitts for the tariff work of seven hours and a half, which work, it should be borne in mind, is most commonly performed throughout the colony in from four to five hours; so that even were the rate of wages fixed at a guilder, the labourer who is willing to work six instead of four hours would earn half a dollar per day.

With regard to the complaint preferred in the morning by the manager to Mr. Stipendiary Justice Mure, charging several labourers with attacking him and threatening to take away his life, and which, as I have stated, he had withdrawn, I was informed by the proprietor, the manager being absent from the estate, that the circumstance would not have occurred, had he (the proprietor) been at home at the time; that the gentleman in question had but very lately been appointed to the management of the estate, and not being acquainted with an established rule respecting the admission of the labourers to their provision-grounds had offered them some obstruction, which they, taking for a commencement of the new regulations, showed a determination to resist.

I have omitted to mention that at the time I reached Blankenburg, Mr. Mure had left, for his own residence, seven miles beyond, therefore I am not aware by what means the disturbances of the morning were subdued; the labourers whom I spoke with entered calmly and peaceably, and with a good deal of shrewd intelligence, into the various subjects upon which we conversed, and nothing like an angry feeling was perceptible; on the contrary, they repeatedly disavowed all intention of violence, and promised strictly to follow his Excellency's injunctions "to behave quietly and peaceably, and on no account to infringe the laws." From the behaviour of those labourers with whom I conversed, I should say the less they are irritated by the presence of policemen the better; and certainly I should have dismissed the policeman I found there, had not courtesy to a brother officer prevented my doing so.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. B. Wolseley,*
Circuit Stipendiary Magistrate.

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

— No. 3. —

(No. 9.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

Government House, Demerara,
13 January 1842.

My Lord,

No. 3.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
13 January 1842.

MY despatches, Nos. 4 and 5, and of the 6th and 7th instant, will have given your Lordship an account of the excitement amongst the labouring population, which was occasioned by the publication of certain new rules and regulations for labourers on plantations in Demerera and Essequibo, and of the perfect preservation of the general peace and tranquillity of the colony, notwithstanding the above-mentioned excitement.

I have now the honour of reporting that the quiet of the community continues unbroken, and that the sheriff of the country of Berbice has this morning reported that, as the new rules and regulations were never adopted in that district, everything is proceeding in the usual satisfactory manner.

I enclose Captain Ball's report of the district adjoining Berbice, and Captain Allen's report on the extreme part of the Essequibo.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Georgetown everything is perfectly quiet; but work has not as yet been generally resumed on the plantations.

I have the honour of enclosing a letter from the police magistrate of Georgetown, showing the satisfactory conduct of the population of this extensive town.

Having learned from one or two quarters, that intimidation was used by some of the labourers towards those of their own class who were inclined to resume their work, I issued a circular instruction to the stipendiary magistrates, of which a copy is enclosed.

I entertain no doubt that the interruption to labour on estates, which has so unfortunately occurred, at a season of the year most favourable to every department of agriculture, will soon cease.

Sir Michael Macturk, who, in the interests of his fellow colonists, presided over the meetings alluded to in my late despatches, having pointed out the illegality of the rules and regula-

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tions, when they came to be framed, for the guidance of the future management of estates, withdrew all connexion with the meetings of the planters.

His labourers having full confidence in him, never ceased work for one day amidst the general strike, though they willingly acceded to a reduction of wages to what they were in 1838.

In like manner the Archdeacon Austin, whose estates are on the Essequibo, has had no cessation from labour. Mr. Barlow, proprietor of Taymouth Manor, has been equally prudent.

Mr. Bagot, the acting registrar, who has an estate close to Georgetown, and is in charge of another on the east coast of Demerara, has had no difficulty in making an arrangement for the reduction of wages. He repudiated the rules and regulations, and the labourers have never ceased working except on the day they heard of the rules, which they cheerfully made up by extra labour on the following day, to show their good feeling to their employer.

Mr. Retemeyer, the colonial receiver-general, Honourable John Croal, with a few others, have in the same manner preserved the confidence of their labourers, and their estates are worked as usual.

The absolute reliance of the labourers on the laws, and in those who uphold them in Her Majesty's name, is most gratifying. I do not believe a similar instance of quiet forbearance and confidence could be exhibited under such circumstances in more civilised countries.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

Sir, Police-Office, Georgetown, 13 January 1842.

Encl. 1, in No. 3. As it may not be uninteresting to his Excellency the Governor, at this crisis, to learn the state of crime and conduct of the humble classes in Georgetown, I feel great pleasure in stating that at no period since the establishment of this office have so few charges been preferred before me in the same number of days, as since the 1st of this month. This is the more striking as contrasted with the cases adjudicated by me last year; no less than 3,495 charges having been brought before me from September 1840 to October 1841, a space of one year, while on yesterday only one complaint was lodged at my office, and that too of a very trifling nature.

I am sure I need not point out to his Excellency how highly creditable this lightness of criminal business, at this peculiar juncture, is to the labouring population of the town; a condition of things hitherto unparalleled in the police annals.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. M'Nulty,* Police Magistrate.

(True copy.)
H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Encl. 2, in No. 3. THE following circular instruction to the stipendiary magistrates is published for general information.

By command of the Governor,

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,* Government Secretary.

Guiana Public Buildings, 11 January 1842.

(Circular.)

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara,
Sir, 11 January 1842.

I AM desired by the Governor to draw your attention to the Act of Parliament passed in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty George the 4th, making provision in reference to the combination of workmen.

This Act is in force in British Guiana, and is printed at length, together with the Order in Council of the 7th September 1838, of which you are in possession. The Act declares that no justice of the peace, being also a master in the particular trade or manufacture in or concerning which any offence is charged to have been committed under this Act, shall act as a justice of the peace under this Act.

This clause of the Act of Parliament is adopted most fully in the Order in Council which declares the Act to be in force in British Guiana. It vests the jurisdiction conferred by the Act on justices in England on stipendiary magistrates in British Guiana, and consequently the justices

justices in the ordinary commission of the peace have no authority to act under the provisions of the law to which reference is made in this communication.

The new rules and regulations intended to be observed on plantations have excited much dissatisfaction in the minds of the labourers generally. There seems, however, every probability for supposing that they will undergo considerable modification, and be much relaxed in actual practice. In this expectation many labourers are disposed to resume, or have actually already resumed, their ordinary occupations; but it is just possible that others, who entertain no such expectations, or to whom no such prospect of modification has been held out, may desire to prevent their comrades from returning to work.

In this case, you will distinctly explain to the labourers that violence to the persons of those who have chosen to resume their work, or threats, or intimidation to them for having so done, or for intending so to do, is an offence against the law of the land, which subjects them, on due conviction, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for three months.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young*, Government Secretary.

————, Esquire, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Enclosure 3, in No. 3.

Sir, District (H.) 10 January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of "Rules and Regulations for the employment of labourers on plantation La Belle Alliance," forwarded to me by direction of Mr. Colin Simson, attorney of the proprietors, with a letter from the manager, of which the following is a copy:— Encl. 3, in No. 3.

Dear Sir, 5 January 1842.

I have been requested by Mr. Simson to send you a copy of the rules and regulations to be followed by every person residing on this estate.

I am, &c.,

Captain Allen. (signed) *J. J. Kerkpatrick.*

The rules and regulations are the same as adopted at the meeting of proprietors and others, held on the 28th ultimo, at Capoey, to be observed on the coast of Essequibo, with the addition of the rule in manuscript, No. 13, for La Belle Alliance.

The rules in question, except to what regards the destruction of the labourers' hogs, do not materially differ from those set down by the proprietors of Lima. I am inclined, however, to hope and to believe, that no manager, attorney, or proprietor in this district will persist in following out the whole of the regulations in question—several of which I have taken every opportunity of declaring to them to be illegal or unjust.

I am happy to say that Mr. Barlow, the attorney of plantations Taynmouth Manor and Fearnot, has not countenanced the late proceedings, nor has he made any alteration in the mode of conducting these estates. The usual routine of labour, therefore, in what concerns them, has suffered no interruption.

The proprietor of the Land of Plenty (Archdeacon Austin) had the good sense to recal an order he had given, contrary to his own better judgment, and his estate has gone on as before.

Medical attendance has been withdrawn from Plantations Richmond and Affiance. I took an early opportunity of remonstrating with Mr. Pearson regarding the manner in which such withdrawal would affect the captured Africans and Portuguese immigrants located on Richmond. Mr. Pearson, in consequence, made the following communication:—

My dear Sir, Richmond, 4 January 1842.

With reference to the letter I sent Dr. M'Lagan (of which I showed you a copy), regarding the medical practice of this estate, I never for a moment intended not to furnish medical attendance and medicine for the immigrants, whenever they required the same.

The doctor living at such a short distance, no person is likely to suffer for the want of his assistance.

It is further my intention to offer the hospital for the benefit of the public, should it be approved of by his Excellency.

I am, &c.

Captain Allen. (signed) *John Pearson.*

I do not consider the above as quite satisfactory, because the proprietor will constitute himself the judge as to when it is necessary or otherwise to summon medical aid; and as the doctor will naturally charge high for every visit paid under such circumstances, his presence may be called in when it can no longer avail.

The Sierra Leone immigrants have represented the hardship of their wages being lowered from the sum which was held out to induce them to come to this colony, which, they state, was repeated on their arrival.

They say that they were led to expect half a dollar for the seven and a half hours' task; that they have since, notwithstanding, continued to work contentedly for five bitts; but that now it is reduced to four, they desire to be sent back to their own country.

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I have told them that I would make their wishes known to his Excellency, and that in the meantime they had better see Mr. Rose, with the view of his making an exception in their favour. The foreman and two others have accordingly proceeded to town; and in a few days the result will be ascertained.

With the exception of Taynmouth Manor, Fearnot, and Land of Plenty, as likewise their friends, Mainstay and Affiance, where labour has latterly been resumed on a temporary understanding, no work has been done since the 1st instant on any of the 21 sugar estates in this district, unless by a few old people, by some persons distilling, or tradesmen about the buildings, &c. The work of the field and the manufacture of sugar have stood still at a season eminently favourable for every operation of the estate, to the great loss of the planter, the discontent of the labourer, and the general deterioration of the colony.

On a number of estates, the only increase of wages which took place, even when sugar was 40*l.* per hogshead, was one bitt for cutting a cord of canes. Taking 16 cords as a fair average for making one hogshead of sugar (although it seems 14 cords has latterly been sufficient on one estate here), the making of 300 hogsheads would only occasion an extra outlay of 400 dollars,—a very trifling sum for so many proprietors and attorneys to have risked their own ruin, or that of the estates under their charge.

I have been waited on by deputations of labourers from 11 of the estates, and have fully explained to them their own position and that of their employers, with the cause assigned by the latter for having had recourse to the late measures. I have urged the labourers to be patient and forbearing; that their provision-grounds place them in an enviable situation, even with the most moderate wages, when compared with immigrants, or those who had no such resource. That it was permitted them to make the best bargain for themselves, yet if they asked or required more than the proprietors could afford to pay, the latter would be obliged to shut up their buildings, and thus both parties be ruined, as the real interests of both were inseparable.

The people have been perfectly quiet and orderly in this neighbourhood, and no doubt will continue so.

The labourers have addressed to me several letters, two of which I annex, as a specimen of all.

I trust sincerely to have it in my power, a few days hence, to report more favourably on the state of things in this district.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. A. Allen,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Captain *J. A. Allen,* S. M.

THE labourers of Plantation Affiance most humbly represent this case to you for your most serious consideration. It appears that within the pale of this week certain resolutions has passed, debiliting the wages of us labourers.

We do now wishful of ascertaining the case from you in its minute order. Wheather we are bound by our Queen to act in accordance with these resolutions, or wheather we are to submit to what offer the managers choose to give. We leave it to you to give us your opinion on this most momentous subject.

It is offered three bitts to one guilder per day for our labour per day. We are told we must pay for our provision-ground, doctor fees, finding ourselves with all necessarys, &c. What will be remaining for us in case of sickness? We feel this case too hard upon us, and we hope that your worship will not consider that we have spoken hard, but it is a fraud that is wishful of placing on us, and unless other measures are adopted, we will be obliged to send to Her Most Gracious Majesty to justify us.

We are your worship most humble servants,

3d January 1842. *The Labourers of Plantation Affiance.*

Joseph Allen, Esq., Magistrate of Trinity Paris.

Sir! We free labourers of Plantation Walton Hall are already to work our liberty hours in putting hands and heart, providing in we getting what is right. As to say for taking one guilder per day, we can not take it at all. Sir, you will be pleased as to understand us to what we say (those few years since we got free), and so soon brought on a reducing price, which is now offered to we labourers. We certainly thinks it to be very hard.

If you take it in consideration, when calling on us. We shall be proud to know from, if such laws came from the Queen, or Governor, or any of Her Majesties Justice of Peace.

During our slavery we was clothed, ration, and seported in all manner of respets. Now we are free mens (free indeed), we are to work for nothing. Then we might actually say, we becomes slaves again. We will be glad to know from the proprietors of the estates, if they are to take from us our rights all togeather. You will be please to understand very well.

Satisfied

Satisfied we labourers with the former price we was getting.

For we were allowed a doctor in case of sickness. But now it is said we must pay house rent, and we is also made to understand that our negroe ground to be taken from us. Therefore we cannot work for a smaller price.

You will be please to take the law in consideration in settling this matter.

We Free Labourers of Plantation Walton Hall,
Remaining yours obt. Servants.

The 6th day of Jany., in the
Year of our Lord, one tousand eight-hundred and forty-two.

To your Honour,—

Sir, As we labourers of the said Pl. Walton Hall hade some canes in the field cut sence last year, has been the reason by we labourers of the said Pln., do not wishfull of any injury to the said Pln., we labourers took it in consideration, commenced on the 5th instant, up to the this date, 6th instant, groining and builling aff those canes, which were live in the field, rather living them go to no use. We consented to put them in some good use. But not withstanding that we agree for the one guilder per day. Therefore we do acknowledge to say that we done it in a manner as to oblige our manager of Pln. Walton Halton.

Enclosure 4, in No. 3.

My dear Sir, Mahaica, 11 January 1842.

THINKING that some account of the state of affairs in this quarter might be desirable, particularly as I am aware that various rumours are in circulation, I have taken the liberty of writing to say that no work has been done on any of the estates in this district since the 1st instant, except at the Farm, the Fellowship, and Cane Grove, where they go on as before. Everything, however, continues perfectly tranquil; indeed I have observed that the people whom I meet are remarkably civil, even more so I think than ordinarily, but I have been informed that in some instances those who wished to work have been threatened by their comrades, and that even insurrection has been talked of; nothing of the kind, however, has come before me in an official way, nor have I any apprehensions on the subject. Some individuals may have used idle threats of this nature, but, if really contemplated, they would take care to keep it to themselves.

Encl. 4, in No. 3.

No reference has yet been made to me by either party, nor have my counsel or advice been resorted to, and which I think it would be imprudent to offer unasked.

My own opinion is, that in a little time they will come to a mutual understanding, though I do not think planters generally will give way on the points of a reduction of wages (more or less), and the exaction of rent in some shape.

When anything of importance occurs, I will again take the liberty of writing, and remain,
Yours, &c.
(signed) *George Ball*, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

— No. 4. —

(No. 18.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Demerara, 21 January 1842.

No. 4.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
21 January 1842.

I HAVE the satisfaction of being able to report, that although the disagreement between the employers and the labourers still exists, and that few estates have as yet been able to obtain general labour, yet the tranquillity of the two counties, Essequibo and Demerara, where alone the "Rules and Regulations" were circulated, has never been disturbed.

The passive resistance of the labourers has showed the full sense they have of the imprudence of the planters. It is true that equity gives the latter the claim to the cottages and provision-grounds occupied by the labourers, if these refuse to give work to the estate; and, in ordinary cases, there would be no difficulty to eject some half-dozen idle or refractory labourers; but who is to eject some 20,000? and, having done so, where are they to go?

I have not yet been called on to mediate, and I have reason to believe that my mediation will not be necessary; the greatest number of planters see their mistake, are anxious to repudiate all intentions of enforcing the "Rules and Regulations," and the disagreement appears in a fair way of being settled by mutual concession; at least so said Mr. Bach, in the Court of Policy yesterday, when it was proposed to proceed with the Bill for establishing a system of tenancy. Mr. Bach stating that he wished the subject to be delayed for the present, as it might revive the suspicions of the peasantry, and prevent or postpone the

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the reconciliation which seemed likely to take place immediately, I therefore adjourned the discussion of the Bill for one month.

Berbice has happily escaped; no change was attempted there; my latest accounts received yesterday from Mr. Sandiford, the newly appointed stipendiary magistrate, state that the labourers were working industriously, having no grievance to interrupt their labour, and that there was every prospect of abundant crops.

— No. 5. —

No. 5.
Lord Stanley to Governor Light, 8 March 1842.

(No. 61.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Governor *Light*.

Sir, Downing-street, 8 March 1842.

No. 4, 6th Jan.
No. 5, 7th Jan.
No. 9, 13th Jan.
No. 18, 21st Jan.

I HAVE received your despatches, of the numbers and dates mentioned in the margin, reporting the adoption and subsequent withdrawal, by the planters of Demerara and Essequibo, of certain rules and regulations for the employment of labourers, and the measures which you had taken for counteracting the effect produced on the labouring population by the injudicious proceedings of their employers.

I approve generally of the steps which you have taken in this case, and I learn with much satisfaction that the proceedings have not been accompanied by any serious breach of the peace, and that a better understanding appears likely to prevail. At the same time I cannot look at this state of things without serious apprehensions for the prospect of the continued sugar cultivation of the colony, if matters are to remain upon their present footing between labourers and employers. I consider the step taken by the latter to have been highly imprudent; and it is not surprising that an attempt to enforce restrictions so vexatious, and in a mode so little conciliatory, should have been productive of much dissatisfaction. I cannot but remark that, especially as related to the newly imported Africans, who had arrived in the colony under a distinct engagement that they should receive a certain rate of wages, the attempt to lower them thus suddenly was in itself unjust; and, as bearing on the effect which might certainly be anticipated, of checking the future supply from Sierra Leone, not less impolitic than unjust.

I am sorry to see that one consequence of this misunderstanding has been to throw obstacles in the way of the discussion of a measure, having for its object, as I understand it, an arrangement with respect to the rights of owners and tenants, irrespective of any consideration connected with the amount of labour given: such a measure, if framed with a due regard to the rights of both parties, I should consider very desirable; and I fear that, until the two questions of rent and labour are entirely separated, it is vain to hope for any permanent and satisfactory adjustment.

But, while I regret the imprudent course which has been pursued by the body of the planters, it is impossible not to see that the reduced amount of exportable produce, and the reduced price which it bears in the British market, have placed them in a position in which they can ill bear any enhanced cost of production; and, allowing for some exaggeration in the statement, that the majority of estates are worked at an absolute loss, I cannot doubt but that the labourers receive, in the shape of wages, a very large proportion of the gross produce of the estates. While, therefore, it is the duty of the Governor, on all occasions, to protect the labourer from any attempt at oppression or ill-treatment of any kind, he will, on the other hand, do well to use all his influence and authority, and cause the stipendiary magistrates to do the same, to impress upon the negroes the fact, that their interests are closely united with those of their masters: that unless sugar bears a certain price, it is impossible for them to continue to give so high a rate of wages as they now give; and that if they cannot obtain labour at a reasonable rate, they must abandon the cultivation of exportable produce; that such an abandonment would, in the first instance, ruin the planter, but that it would act not less certainly, nor less injuriously, on the labourer, whose present state of great comfort and prosperity depends upon the colony continuing to export a considerable amount of sugar and other produce.

I am anxiously desirous of seeing an attempt made to induce the labourers to be themselves cultivators of the cane on their own account, and, if possible, a system of rent introduced, either in money or in kind, or a division of the produce between owner and labourer, according to such terms as may be agreed on, and in such form as they may most readily be brought to understand and agree to.

I cannot but add that, gratifying as the result of the great experiment of emancipation has been in many, and those the most important consequences, I should look upon it as a serious drawback to its success, if, after the vast sacrifices made by this country, one of the finest of our colonies should be forced to abandon a large portion of the cultivation of its staple produce, in consequence of inability, on the part even of economical managers, to give extravagant wages insisted upon by the emancipated population.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley*.

— No. 6. —

(No. 12.)

No. 6.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
19 Jan. 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 19 January 1842.

IN my despatch, No. 4, date January 6, I made allusion to a complaint of some labourers which I had referred to Captain Coleman, and with whose report on that complaint I had not been furnished.

I have now the honour to forward a copy of his letter, in which he states that full compensation was made to the complainants, whose names are mentioned, as also the sums awarded.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

Sir, Upper District (C.), 15 January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that I have carefully investigated the three cases referred to me in your letters of the 5th and 6th instant; that I have convicted the accused William Roach, manager of Plantation Henry, of ill-usage, harsh and improper conduct, towards the labourers, Henry Paul, Sophia Belfast, the reputed wife of Jacob Williams (who was employed on another estate), and Jacob Cuffy, by turning them out of the houses they occupied on the estate, and putting their furniture, &c. outside their houses, without giving them reasonable time to remove; and that I have awarded the following sums in compensation, viz. to Henry Paul, 2*l.* sterling; to Sophia Belfast, 1*l.* sterling; and to Jacob Cuffy, 3*l.* sterling; which I considered, under all the circumstances of their several cases, proportionate to the injustice with which they had been treated.

I beg leave to add that there appeared some exaggerations in their statements, inasmuch as their furniture, &c. was not thrown out of their houses, nor was there much damage done to it, except that some part was left exposed to the weather, and that their bedding was not put out.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Coleman*, S. J. P.

(A true copy.)
W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

— No. 7. —

(No. 26.)

No. 7.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
31 Jan. 1842.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Demerara, 31st January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the half-yearly returns from the stipendiary magistrates of this province, to the 31st December 1841.

Your Lordship will have the satisfaction of reading in those returns the most favourable accounts of the progress made since emancipation, and full proof that, until the 31st December 1841, the mutual relations between the labourers and their employers remained unbroken, and that the prospects for the crop of 1842 were good.

The imprudence of the planters has changed this; and to this day, no labour has been given to the generality of estates in Demerara and Essequibo; a month of the finest season lost to the agriculture of those two counties, which, I fear, cannot be compensated, though from the reports I have received, there is a probability of labour being resumed on the 1st of the ensuing month.

I have no hesitation in saying that the labourers have shown their resentment by abstaining from labour, not on account of the proposed reduction of wages, but because of the attempt to impose restrictions on them of an illegal nature.

Had I listened to the reports circulated of the insubordination of the labourers, their resistance to the laws, and the defiance of their attitude to the magistrates and employers, I do not think the public peace would have been so well preserved.

On this subject I shall say more in succeeding despatches.

There is full reason for believing the saving of the expenses of an estate by the reduction of wages, is nothing in comparison with the general expenditure.

Without mentioning names, I give the words of a planter, who, in speaking of the great expenses of the estate, and alluding to the wages, stated that he and his partner had carefully calculated the outlay on a cane piece which produced them 15 hogsheads of sugar, from the first weeding, draining, renewing plants, to the shipment; they found that it did not exceed 1,000 guilders, leaving, at 20*l.* a hogshead, a clear balance of 3,200 guilders; it was added that, notwithstanding this, they were losers by other outlays which passed their calculation, as indeed it does mine, and I can only account for it by supposing

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great extravagance in other outlays, or that items are included in the annual expense, in principal, rather than interest on money expended; these items may be enormous, if they include instalments of mortgages or repayment of loans, expenses of buildings, instead of the fair interest on wear and tear, and the compound interest exacted on any arrears by the merchant for money lent.

In Berbice everything has gone on as usual; employers never advanced wages as has been done in the other counties. I continue to receive satisfactory accounts of the industry of the labourers, and the prospects for the current year. Harmony has not been disturbed by introduction of "rules and regulations."

Whatever may be your Lordship's decision respecting emigration, I venture respectfully to suggest that Berbice ought not to suffer for the faults of her neighbours. I shall feel it my duty to transfer all captured Africans to that county, unless parties here enter into written contracts for assuring the provisions of my original instructions to the agents at Rio and elsewhere.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Encl. in No. 7. STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st of December 1841, from District A. (Upper Division), in the County of *Demerara*.

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the Rate of Mortality; or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

MY Report upon these subjects must be, in a great measure, relative, as I have been but a few months stationed in this part of the colony, having had the charge of District (G.), in the county of Essequibo, nearly from the commencement of the apprenticeship; in that quarter a remarkable change for the better had taken place in the manners, habits, tastes, and behaviour of the labouring population, which indeed began long before the dissolution of the apprenticeship, proceeded afterwards, and no doubt continues to advance; and although I have reason to believe that the peasantry here are likewise improved, it would seem either that their progress has not quite kept pace with that which I have described, or they were behind the others at the period referred to. With respect to the rate of mortality in this district, I have been unable to obtain any accurate information, no registry of deaths having been kept until recently; but there is no doubt of its having rather decreased since the dissolution of the apprenticeship. Crime of a grave character continues rare, and I am not aware of any increase of offences, except that quarrels with each other, and consequent assaults are, I think, more frequent than formerly, and which are sometimes aggravated by the use of knives, a practice heretofore unknown in this colony, and I believe introduced by emigrants.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The condition of the labourers resident on estates up to the present time has been most favourable, more so perhaps than that of the same class in any other country; they have had commodious houses, ample provision-grounds, medical attendance and mdicines, with good wages, and all these without rent or tax; but the planters in general have declared that they can no longer afford to pay them so highly, and have resolved from to-morrow to reduce their wages, and to exact rent for their houses and land, and, I believe, to deprive them of some other advantages hitherto allowed, which will considerably alter their condition. The peasantry are making a good deal of progress in establishing themselves as freeholders. At "The Recess," between Mahaicony and Abary Creek, a hamlet has recently been completed, consisting of nine or ten cottages, with about 50 inhabitants; and on the lands of Spring Hall, near the Mahaica Creek, a much larger one is in progress, about 70 lots of ground having been purchased for that purpose. Many insulated lots have also been bought in different places, and the village of Mahaica is rapidly increasing; these changes cannot but have an effect upon the supply of labour, particularly at first, while the ground is preparing for cultivation and the houses building; I do not think, however, the consequences will be so injurious in this respect as is generally supposed, when the occupants are settled in these freeholds. The manager of Plantation Fellowship, the nearest estate to "The Recess" above alluded to, informed me that many of his labourers were supplied from it.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

There are two Presbyterian churches in the district, and two Wesleyan Methodist chapels, one of them recently erected; and, besides the parochial school, there are two others newly established and supported by the Wesleyan Methodist Society; there are also two private schools in the district. There is no savings bank or benefit society.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the supply of Labour and the rate of Wages; the produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The present supply of labour is so scanty that planters find it difficult, and in many instances impossible, to command the continuous work requisite to the successful management of a sugar estate, which some have endeavoured to obviate by the employment of Portuguese emigrants, but who unhappily fall victims to the climate almost as fast as they arrive; there are a few Sierra Leone emigrants on one of the estates, who are excellent labourers, well conducted, healthy, and apparently contented with their situation; indeed they are much improved in appearance and in all respects since their arrival a few months ago. The rate of wages for a full task of seven and a half hours in the field, is 50 cents (2*s.* 1 *d.* British), but an able labourer may earn as much more, as he can easily finish his task in five hours or less; in the boiling-house the rate is also 50 cents per diem, but to which is added an allowance of provisions. With the exception of two or three estates, the crop of the present year is very short in this district, and, from the best information I have been able to obtain, has fallen off one-fourth on an average, as compared with that of the preceding. The weather has been, and still continues, extremely favourable, and where a sufficiency of labour has been attainable, the sugar canes promise well; it is, however, to be feared that the general deficiency of labour must have an injurious effect upon the next crop, and to which "the strike" anticipated from the intended reduction of wages may also contribute.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

Cane and megass carriers, which, however, cannot be called new, having been some years in use, are the only machines that I know of by which labour is saved; and I am not aware of any improved method of cultivation or new manufacture in this district. I have been informed that a steam-plough has been invented and tried in another part of the colony with a prospect of success, and which, if found to answer in practice, must be the means of saving a vast amount of labour, and that of the heaviest description.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

Clothing of all kinds for males and females, and of a very expensive description, is in demand; jewellery also, and particularly female ornaments, often of a costly kind, are much in request. Hams, beef, pork, flour, biscuit, rice, Indian corn meal, butter, cheese, wheaten bread, English potatoes, ale, beer, porter, wines, brandy, Hollands, and rum are likewise commonly purchased by the peasantry. Plantains, vegetables, and ground provisions are much sought after by the inhabitants of the village of Mahaica, but are exceedingly scarce and dear, the peasantry seldom raising more than they require for their own use. Poultry is hardly to be had at any price, although no country affords greater facility for rearing it; and notwithstanding that the waters teem with excellent fish of various sorts, for which they could have a ready market at an extravagant rate, they are rarely at the trouble of taking it.

(signed) *George Ball,*
Stipendiary Magistrate.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from District A. (Lower Section), in the County of *Demerara.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

A VERY great improvement has taken place both in the manners and habits of the peasantry since the dissolution of apprenticeship. Formerly, money was extravagantly expended in dances, feasting, and expensive clothing, which is now appropriated to the

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purchase of furniture and other useful articles; and "tastes" are better shown in their houses, which are now kept clean and neat, and in their attire, which is far more suitable to their condition. They are equally civil to their superiors as before their freedom, and more polite to each other since.

As no registry of deaths is kept in the colony, it is impossible to give accurate information as to the rate of mortality. Deaths amongst children may have been more common, from the circumstance of the mothers neglecting to apply for medical advice till their children were in the last stage of disease.

Offences of a serious nature are of rare occurrence in this colony. Some few cases of petty theft have come under my notice.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the Cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

Tenancy on estates on a bad plan; too much power in the hands of employer as well as the peasantry, particularly the latter, as they can occupy their houses and grounds almost in defiance of their employers; and this will always be taken advantage of by the lazy and ill-disposed. A fair rental per month, exacted for house and grounds, would be a much better plan for the employed as well as the employers, as it would make them much more independent of each other; and where such a rent was acquired by the employers, they could afford higher wages. The people are anxious to establish themselves as freeholders, and are rapidly acquiring freeholds. Hamlets and villages are rising up as rapidly as could be expected in so short a time as since the entire freedom. The supply of labour for the staple cultivation is greatly decreased; but this does not arise from the labourers having got more indolent, but principally from the following circumstance: the quantity of labour bestowed upon their newly-acquired grounds; on the building of houses, and cultivating their grounds; their general desire of keeping their wives in attendance on their domestic duties; the number of children of a workable age in attendance at school; and the lazy and ill-disposed few, who do not work, but live on the public and their own friends.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

Every facility is afforded the peasantry of this district of obtaining religious and moral instruction. The churches and schools, it is gratifying to report, are well attended. Benefit societies have been established, but not to a great extent. There is a saving bank in Georgetown.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour is sadly deficient; rate of wages varying from 33 cents to 75 cents. The produce of the last crop, from all I can learn, will be deficient, but the promise of the next is more favourable. The weather for some months past has been very favourable for the growth of canes, the staple produce of the colony.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

I have heard of none since last report.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

Provisions of all sorts, and a fair demand for all articles of wearing apparel.

(signed) *J. Macleod,*
Stipendiary Magistrate, Lower District (A.)

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 1st January 1842, from District (B.), in the County of *Demerara*.

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

BY far the greater part of the peasantry in this district are negroes; the rest, coloured creoles, and a few white emigrants lately introduced, consisting of Portuguese labourers, and tradesmen from England. The negroes consist of old Africans and creoles; the former making somewhat more than one-fifth of the whole number. These old Africans are more steady, civil, and industrious than the generality of the creoles.

Since the dissolution of the apprenticeship a great improvement is observable in their manners, habits, and tastes, and they are daily becoming less extravagant in dress and living; and seem intent upon laying by as much as possible of their earnings for the purchase of lands, considerable tracts of which have already been bought by many of them. They interest themselves very much in the education of their children, entertain great respect for religious rites, and are very regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. Mortality has very much decreased, and continues on the decrease. The chief offences are petty thefts (principally on plantain walks), and assaults among themselves.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the Cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The peasantry have hitherto been found by the proprietary body with cottages, provision-grounds, medicines and medical attendance, free of charge, with money wages varying from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per diem, to effective labourers, for the full apprenticeship task of seven hours and a half, and proportionably for either more or less than this task. They live very comfortably, and many of them save money, which they apply in the purchase of lands. Two plantain estates have been purchased by labourers within the last six months in this district; one for 80,000 dollars, and the other for 39,000 dollars, in shares of from 300 to 400 dollars each. In both cases the half of the purchase price was paid in advance. Besides the villages which are being established on these two estates, there are two other villages rising up on small freeholds in this district. It is not supposed that these purchases will materially affect the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple production. The new freeholders, being of the best and most industrious class of labourers, generally continue in their former situations, and employ less effective labourers to do such work as may be required on their freeholds.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

There have been no additional churches or schools established in the district within the last six months, and there are neither savings banks nor benefit societies of any description.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The state and prospects of cultivation were very satisfactory till towards the close of last month, when symptoms of great dissatisfaction appeared among the labourers, arising out of certain rules and regulations got up by the proprietary body, and tending, not only to great reduction of wages, but also to deprive the labourers of comforts and privileges to which they had been accustomed. A general "strike" has, in consequence, already taken place, and it is impossible to say to what extent the misunderstanding may affect the next crop. The supply of labour in this district was far short of the demand. The wages, as already stated, varied during the last six months, from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* sterling for the task of seven hours and a half. The last crop was about equal, in the gross amount, to that of the previous year, in this district. Some estates fell off in consequence of defective drainage rather than the want of the usual supply of labour. Other estates made more crop than the preceding year. The weather has been, upon the whole, very favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

A steam-plough was lately introduced into this district, but has not as yet been put in operation.

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No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The principal traffic in the district is in the shipment and sale of produce, and the sale of goods to the inhabitants. The goods chiefly in demand are articles of clothing, finery, eatables, and drinkables, for the peasantry.

D. MacLennan, Stipendiary Magistrate,
District (B.) 3d January 1842.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from Town Division District (C.) in the County of *Demerara*.

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality; or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

A progressive advancement may be observed in the general character of the peasantry, in proportion to the improvement in their condition. The elder portion seem desirous to acquire property, to possess houses and freeholds; where they can indulge a taste for the comforts of life, both with respect to diet and the furnishing of their houses, without the apprehension of being put to the inconvenience of removal, which naturally arose from the uncertain tenure of service on estates. The younger are fond of dress, and disposed to extravagance.

The obligations of an oath are not duly observed. Marriage is respected; but the relative duties devolving on parties entering into this condition are not understood. Petty thefts and trifling assaults are of frequent occurrence.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the Cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The conditions of tenancy on estates are those of service; the right of occupation of the cottage by the labourer may terminate at any moment; he must quit when ordered. But should the employer eject him with undue harshness or precipitation, he would be entitled to compensation for any loss or injury he might sustain by that measure.

The peasantry are rapidly becoming possessed of freehold or leasehold property in this district. Large portions of the estates adjoining the town (Georgetown) are laid out in lots for sale. A portion of Plantation Thomas has thus been laid out and sold. Houses have been erected, and provision-grounds planted; and a flourishing and populous suburb, called Albert's Town, has been established. The estates in the immediate vicinity do not suffer in consequence: those more remote must do so. Many of the people thus located give their services to the neighbouring estates. The majority work as porters, carters, &c.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

The rural portion of this district being limited, there have not been many improvements under this head. There is a chapel and schoolhouse on the front lands of Plantation Belair, about three miles from Georgetown.

In Georgetown, the Church of England has two churches; the Presbyterians, one; the Roman Catholics, one; and several Independent, Wesleyan, United Brethren, and other chapels. There are schools in general in connexion with the places of worship, besides many private seminaries. They are well attended.

A savings bank has been established some three or four years. No benefit societies of importance have been established.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour has been nearly equal to the wants of estates in this district. The wages have been about half a dollar (2 *s.* 1 *d.*) per day, with cottages, provision-grounds, medical attendance, &c. A reduction in the rate of wages is contemplated by the planters.

The produce of the last half-year's crop has not been equal to that of the corresponding period of the previous year, except on Plantation Belair, where, I understand, a larger crop

crop has been made; the crop of 1840 having been very limited, from the labour of the estate being expended in improving the drainage, &c. The proprietor and manager of this estate declined affording me any information relating thereto.

The next crop must depend much on the way in which the reduction of wages, &c., affects the supply of labour, otherwise it promises well. The weather has been favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any Improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

None.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The peasantry are principally supplied from the stores in town.

REMARKS.

Georgetown contains a population of about 27,000 persons. The dissolute, idle, and vicious here take up their head-quarters. Crimes and offences are more frequent than in any other district. The complaints between masters and servants average about 70 per month. Those between debtor and creditor (of less amount than 5 *l.*) about 150. These come within the jurisdiction of the stipendiary magistrate, as such, and in his capacity of justice of the peace. The police magistrate has informed me that the number of complaints for theft, assault, &c., that come within his jurisdiction average 10 per day.

(signed) *R. Heyland,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from District (C.), in the County of *Demerara.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

There is evidently a change for the better in their habits, manners, and tastes, and they continue improving. Marriages have become very general, the female character thereby elevated, and their appearance and conduct at the different churches and chapels respectable. The rate of mortality has decreased considerably since the dissolution of the apprenticeship; and I do not consider that offences have become more frequent or more criminal in their nature, although more cases may have become publicly known, since they are now scarcely ever concealed.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

During the last half year the labourers in this district have been allowed houses or cottages free from any rent; within that time their progress in establishing themselves as freeholders has been very inconsiderable, and no new hamlets or villages have arisen in this district; but those heretofore established have increased in population, which has to a certain degree lessened the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

There is one Episcopal church and one chapel of ease in this district, and also four Dissenters' chapels, which are all well attended, particularly the latter. There are seven schools in different parts of the district, where upwards of 400 children are educated at a very trifling expense to their parents: these schools and chapels are open on Sundays for children and adults.

There are no savings banks or benefit societies in this district.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

I consider that, with the influx of emigrants, there has been a good supply of labour in this district in the last half year. The rate of wages has been from one-third to one-half a dollar per diem for a moderate day's work in the field; and masons, carpenters, bricklayers, coopers, engineers, and others employed about the buildings, could easily earn more.

I am unable to state the produce of the last crop, or the promise of the next, as the attorneys and managers, with very few exceptions, refuse to afford me any information on the subject. The weather during the last half year has been most favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

There have been no improvements or discoveries in this district of the above nature within the last half year.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

This district being very near to Georgetown the internal traffic is not very considerable, but there are several stores which supply the inhabitants with such goods as they are in immediate want of; and the articles most in demand are salt provisions, porter, beer, and all kinds of low-priced merchandise, with a great demand for wheaten bread.

(signed) *Thomas Coleman,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending 31st December 1841, from District (D.), in the County of *Demerara.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

The general character of the peasantry in District (D.) is good. Civility and respect for their superiors uniform, morality improving, as evinced by their numerous marriages and their regular attendance at places of worship. A great desire for the comforts and even luxuries of civilized life pervades the whole; rate of mortality decreasing; offences confined to petty thefts, and common assaults and batteries. One deliberate case of arson only has occurred, and that supposed to be committed by a coolie.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The labourers occupy small cottages on estates; these are the property of the owner of the estate; rent free; great increase in the number of small freeholds. New hamlets and villages to a great extent have been erected, and the provision-grounds attached, remarkable for the care and attention bestowed on them, altogether presenting a most comfortable appearance. The public roads passing through these villages kept up in very nice order by the different small proprietors. In some cases a large supply of labour has been derived from these locations in the cultivation of the staple produce, but of course this depends on circumstances.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

No increase during the last six months.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

Supply of labour has been fair. Rate of wages the same as heretofore. The last sugar crop has been about equal to the previous one, perhaps a little decrease on the whole. Coffee crop bad; but an excellent crop expected for the ensuing year, and the sugar crop is expected to exceed the last considerably. Weather very favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

Nothing new under this head.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

Salted provisions of all kinds, groceries, Manchester goods of the coarse kinds, leather manufactures, &c., are most in demand; great quantities of charcoal and fire-wood are transported to town from the various small freeholds on the river, which are readily sold at good prices. This trade is on the increase.

(signed) *W. J. Sandiford,*
Stipendiary Magistrate, District (D.)

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending 1st January 1842, from District (E.), in the County of *Demerara.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

The peasantry continue to advance steadily in civilization, and in the habits and manners of civilized life. I am afraid that there is no decrease in the rate of mortality. Offences of a serious nature are of rare occurrence.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

Tenancy on estates has not yet been introduced; but as bills for the easy recovery of rents, and for the ejectment of tenants after the expiration of the term or period of tenancy, are now before the Court of Policy, it is probable that tenancy will soon be established. Many of the labourers have become freeholders, and several hamlets have arisen. These changes have diminished, though perhaps to a less extent than was anticipated, the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

There are in this district, and within a distance of 20 miles, six places of worship, and seven schools, without including Sunday-schools. There are no savings banks or benefit societies.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour is quite inadequate to the demand. The money wages varied from five to six bits (from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.*) for a task. Houses and provision-grounds were given gratuitously. So great has been the demand for labour, and the fear of losing the

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services of any labourer, that tasks have been made very light, and work permitted to be performed in an inefficient manner. It is now proposed to reduce the wages for a task to a guilder, or 1*s.* 4*d.*

The crop of last year, I fear, will prove deficient; but cultivation now is, in general, in better order, and holds out a hope of better returns in the present year. The weather has been generally favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any New Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

An experiment has been made with an excavator for cutting canals, and another experiment with a steam-plough. Both these machines are likely to answer their purposes, and to make a material saving in manual labour when in full operation. No improved method of cultivation or new manufacture has been introduced.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

There is little or no internal traffic.

(signed) *J. O. Lockhart Mure,*
Stipendiary Justice of Peace, District (E.)

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from District (F.), in the County of *Essequibo.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

The labourers in this district are extremely civil, and some of them are very polite; they are very cleanly in their persons and cottages, and, as a body, they are not intemperate. They are fond of dress and finery, and of lavishing large sums of money at weddings and christenings. Their houses display much comfort, being in most instances supplied with colony wood bedsteads, bedding, chairs and tables, and sideboards. The mortality has been greater amongst the young children since than during the apprenticeship, owing in some degree to the neglect of the parents in not bringing their offspring to the medical practitioners but at the last stage of the disease. The mortality amongst the adult population has not been so great as during the apprenticeship. Petty thefts, assaults, and breaches of the peace, are the offences of the most frequent kind; only two cases of a heinous nature have been sent from this district to the supreme tribunal of the colony within the last six months.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The labourers upon estates in this district have the occupancy of a comfortable cottage, and as much land as they choose to cultivate, for which they pay no rent. In the event of any disagreement taking place between the peasant and the proprietor, which causes the former to leave the property, the peasant has a right to either sell or carry away any provisions which may be on his ground at the time of his leaving the estate. Numbers of labourers are establishing themselves as freeholders. There are four villages in the district, which are all thriving. These changes abstract labour from the estates near which these villages are situated, as it is of rare occurrence that the possessor of a small plot of land will ever give his labour to the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony. It is not, however, improbable that when these plots are planted, the estates in the immediate neighbourhood of these villages will eventually derive a benefit from these small landholders, as it is impossible the produce of their small plots will enable the possessors to obtain those comforts which the negro cannot now dispense with.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

Another Episcopalian church is now building in the Island of Wakenaam in this district, but it will be some time before it is completed. There are two parochial schools under the direction of the respective rectors of the two parishes, which are numerously attended

attended by the labourers' children. There are also four other schools, denominated Estates' Schools, also under the direction of the rectors. There is no savings bank. There is a society, termed the Friendly Society, but its sources are as yet but very limited.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

Within the last six months this district has had an accession of labour in about 700 Portuguese emigrants from the Island of Madeira; but in consequence of the great mortality and the extreme sickness which has unfortunately prevailed amongst this class of people, very little benefit has been derived by their introduction. The rate of wages given vary from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* for about six hours' labour daily. Four thousand one hundred hogsheads of sugar were manufactured this year. The exact quantity of rum made, and the quantity of molasses and plantains sold, cannot be ascertained by the stipendiary magistrate. It is presumed that the ensuing crop will not be less than that of the year 1841. The weather has been most favourable for the cane cultivation.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

None.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The goods most in demand in this district are silks, calicoes, Osnaburgs, linen cloth, cottons, millinery, salt provisions, spirituous liquors, malt liquors, wines, and flour.

(signed) *Walter Howard Ware,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending the 31st December 1841, from District (G.), in the County of *Essequibo.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the Rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

THE general character of the peasantry is orderly, particularly so in this district; I think they have exhibited a greater taste in their dress and the furniture of their houses since the apprenticeship, and their manners are decidedly improved. It is impossible to ascertain the rate of mortality. Petty offences committed in this district have certainly been on the decline, and those of a higher description have also very much diminished.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the supply of Labour for the Cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

In this district I know of no tenancy; the progress of establishing themselves as freeholders and leaseholders has increased, and is increasing. Those villages that have been established are thriving and increasing daily; an extraordinary instance of which is Queen's Town, where tradesmen as well as labourers are settling daily. Generally this must have the effect of reducing the supply of the staple produce, although the estates immediately contiguous to those settlements receive an occasional augmentation of labour, and are so far benefited.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

One church and three chapels of the Church of England; one chapel of the Church of Scotland; and one Wesleyan chapel; two public schools supported by the colony, at which upwards of 100 boys and girls are educated; the school lately supported by the Mico Charity has lately been abandoned, and taken over by the Wesleyan minister. List of schools and number of scholars under the control of the rector of this parish; viz. West Diocen School, 68 scholars; St. Peter's Charity School, 39; Duffryn, 46; Hamburgh, 33; Sophienburgh, 19; also one at Velvoorden, 25; another at Aurora, taught by persons connected with the Church of England. Schools conducted by the Wesleyan minister are two in number; viz. one at Abraham Zuil, 56 scholars; one at Zorg, 84 scholars. No savings banks or benefit societies in this district.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour has been more steady; the rate of wages continues as heretofore. The crop of this year will not be equal to that of last year. The crop of next year may be expected to be much greater than that of the present year. The weather has been extremely favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

I know of no new machine in this district; ploughs are occasionally used. No improved method of cultivation has taken place; the manufacture of bricks and tiles is continued, and is increasing.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The number of shops of various descriptions has been much increased, and stocked with all kinds of merchandize, which is readily sold for cash.

(signed) *A. M. Lyons,*
Stipendiary Magistrate.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly Report, ending 31st December 1841, from District (H.), in the County of *Essequibo.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the Rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

THE habits, tastes, and manners of the peasantry have very decidedly improved since the dissolution of the apprenticeship. The rate of mortality has considerably decreased among the young children, it having been shown by the late census that in that part of the district extending from Capoey to Evergreen (including 21 sugar estates) there were 1,077 children under five years of age, and only 691 between the age of five and ten years.

The small-pox which appeared in the district some months ago has much augmented the ordinary mortality.

Offences are usually of a trivial kind, consisting chiefly of assaults, defamation, &c. Petty thefts often occur. Offences of a serious nature rarely take place, and none within the last six months have been such as to render it necessary to refer them beyond the inferior criminal court.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates, to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the Cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The dwellings on estates are universally held at will, the proprietors considering such tenure as most likely to secure them assiduous labour. Little progress has been made in this district by the peasantry in establishing themselves as freeholders, but a good many have become leaseholders of land. In the village of Williamstown an annual rent of five joes or about 8 *l.* sterling, is paid for a lot of a quarter of an acre. In front of Plantation Fear Not the land is let for a similar term, at 50 dollars (nearly 11 *l.*) for half an acre. At the latter place, usually called "Fear Not Village," the number of buildings is progressing pretty rapidly. The increase at Williamstown is prevented by there being little spare land on the estate where it is situated. The hamlets or villages hitherto established have but slightly affected the cultivation of the staples of the colony; partly from their limited extent, and that a portion of labour has been bestowed by the leaseholders on the adjoining estates.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

Besides the parish church of the Trinity, there are two chapels of ease (St. Saviour and St. Barnabas) where Divine service is occasionally performed. A new chapel of ease is nearly

nearly completed in front of Plantation Hampton Court, and a Wesleyan chapel in front of Plantation Windsor Castle. The service of the Church of England is likewise regularly read by a catechist at Pomepiaco chapel on the Pomeroon river; and for about three months past the service of the Church of Rome has been performed on several estates, to a congregation of Portuguese immigrants.

There are eight schools in the district, attended by 400 to 500 children, whose progress in reading, writing, and arithmetic is highly respectable. The school at Pomepiaco is chiefly attended by the children of Indians, who are in consequence rapidly advancing in civilization.

There is no saving bank. One benefit society exists in the district. The number of its members is considerable, to whom it has already proved of great utility.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The demand for labour among the proprietors has been great. The supply, though not abundant, has been in general quite equal to the accommodation provided, and in certain cases has exceeded it. The introduction of Portuguese immigrants has neither benefited them nor the colony; a large number have died, and few who have recovered are capable of much exertion.

The immigrants from Sierra Leone, and the captured Africans, have behaved well and worked industriously; little sickness and no death has occurred among them. The Barbadian immigrants have likewise done well.

The rate of wages for a task usually performed in five hours, varies from 4 to 5 bitts (averaging 1*s.* 6*d.* sterling).

The produce of 1841 has in general not been equal to that of 1840. The prospect of next crop is expected in almost every instance to exceed that which has just been completed. The weather during the last few months has been exceedingly favourable for every operation of the estate.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

No new machine to abridge labour has been introduced during the past year. The plough is used in some instances; in other respects the routine of cultivation has not varied, nor has any new manufacture been introduced.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The articles most in demand are cotton and linen goods for the women; clothing of various kinds for the men. Likewise salted provisions of every description, with rice, biscuit, flour, &c. Spirits, malt liquors, and wines are also generally in demand. The above things are sold in stores established at short intervals throughout the district. Hucksters are numerous, which business is now almost exclusively carried on by the natives of Madeira, many of whom find this occupation either more profitable or more congenial to their taste than agricultural labour. The goods above enumerated are brought to the district in schooners or other small craft, which convey the estates' produce to Georgetown. In the Pomeroon river and adjacent creeks are wood-cutting establishments, which furnish building and other materials for the cottages on plantations. These materials are conveyed in small coasting vessels from the river, or by corrials from the Tapicouma and other lakes. Indians are extensively employed at the wood-cutting establishments.

(signed) *Ja. Allen,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from District (I.), in the County of *Berbice.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

MANNERS are gradually improving; with few exceptions, they regularly attend Divine service on the Sundays and holidays, send their children to school, intermarry, and are becoming on the whole more steady and resolute; they might in general be more industrious.

Habits have in many respects undergone a gradual change for the better; their cottages are neatly furnished and kept clean.

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BRITISH GUIANA.

Tastes.—As by degrees they progress in civilization, their tastes are for dress, show in finery, and other luxuries of life, hardly anything excepted.

Mortality.—Since the small-pox in the beginning of this year, few deaths have taken place in this district; I suppose no more that one per cent., and that mostly of the aged people and children, during the six months.

Offences.—Such as are of a grave nature are of rare occurrence, and have not been committed in this district; petty thefts and assaults and battery are among the dissolute and thoughtless, such as in all other communities.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the Cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

It is visible that the relations between the labourers and their employers are better understood; mutual reliance on each other is fully admitted; it is hoped that this may be productive in the end of establishing that confidence so essential in all social compacts, and which until late has only been partially fostered. The cottages on the estates are as yet occupied by the labourers rent free; they are good and comfortable, and have some inclosed ground behind for a vegetable garden. Notwithstanding this, the labourers that have the means purchase parts of abandoned estates, of which there are a great many in this district, and make their own dwellings, thus forming establishments, whereof some are rising into villages and hamlets; so long as this continues the planter cannot expect to be so regularly supplied by labour, and the cultivation of the staple commodity of the colony must suffer and be thrown back; but it stands in reason that, so soon as the labourers are established to their wishes, they will devote at least the seven hours and a half regularly daily to the estate, for the five days of the week, as they invariably take the Saturdays for themselves, either to work their own provision-grounds, or go to fish, or otherwise. The following villages and hamlets are established, viz.—

Lichfield	from 20 to 30	Cottages.	
St. John	— 30 to 40	—	
Golden Grove	— 30 to 40	—	
No. 28	— 15 to 20	—	Now named Georgetown.
No. 29	— 10 to 15	—	
Firebrace	— 10 to 12	—	
No. 12	— 12 to 15	—	
No. 10	— 5 to 8	—	
No. 9	— 9 to	—	
No. 8	— 12 to	—	

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

No savings banks yet in the districts, neither benefit societies. There is a savings bank in the town of New Amsterdam, for the benefit of all individuals, but it is not generally resorted to by the labourers.

There are two English churches, two missionary chapels, four schools.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour and the rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

A supply of labour, principally for agriculture, and also for domestic purposes, falls short of the demand; from thence that the progress of the staple produce is as yet far back. The wages the labourer receives are very liberal indeed; he is paid, for the performance of seven hours' and a half stated labour, which he or she generally performs in four hours' assiduous work, one guilder, equal to 1 *s.* 4 ½ *d.* Many that are industrious finish a double quantity in the field, which tends as much to their own as the planter's benefit.

When grinding, cane-cutters can earn from two guilders, or 2 *s.* 9 *d.* a day, to a Spanish dollar, or 4 *s.* 2 *d.* English; the boiler and punt-men, 2 *s.* 1 *d.* English; and if the labour of the first be protracted, there is an additional ratio paid. Although judicial district (I.) is nearly 30 English miles in extent along the sea-coast, it has no more in all at present than seven sugar estates; all the former cotton estates in which it abounded, are long since abandoned, and a few have been converted into cattle farms. These seven sugar estates have produced last year, and expect to yield this present year, by favourable weather and a fair proportion of labour, viz.—

ESTATES.	MADE LAST YEAR (1841.)	EXPECTATION OF THIS YEAR'S CROP.
	hhds. tcs. bls.	
Plantation Cotton Tree	91 48 2	-- Unless with the aid of additional labour, no more than last year.
— Woodley Park -	0 147 0	-- Cannot be ascertained, depending on too many circumstances.
— Waterloo - -	—	
— Hope and Experiment.	—	
— Foulis - -	—	
— Profit - -	60 0 0	-- If no supply of labour, will only make 30 hhds.
— No. 17 - -	—	

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

In addition to what has been said by former report, sub ultimo June, an excavator to deepen canals and trenches, and Telford's improved magas waggon, to cut acute and other angles, have been invented.

No improvement in the manner of the cultivation of the cane, or the manufacture of sugar, has been made.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

There is as yet little internal trade, but what relates to the wood-cutters. The timber trade, which is yet in its infancy, will gradually augment with the rise and prosperity of British Guiana; and with her will also proportionably extend the internal traffic.

(signed) *A. Van Ryck de Groot,* Stipendiary Magistrate, District (I.)

Office of Stipendiary Magistrate, District (I.)
County Berbice, 31 Dec. 1841.

MEMORANDUM.

As up to this date no answer has been received from the managers of Waterloo, Hope, and Experiment, No. 17, and Plantation Foulis, though original and duplicate of my official letter have been forwarded to them, I am obliged to send my report in its present form, which I regret.

(signed) *Van Ryck de Groot,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

[STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31 December 1841, from District (K.), in the County of *Berbice.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the Rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

My observations have led me to believe that in this district, as in my former district, the peasantry have improved greatly in their manners, habits, and tastes, since the termination of the apprenticeship, and this improvement is daily continuing. Their manners exhibit less suspiciousness towards their superiors than formerly, and more civility and confidence; they are more cleanly in their persons, and better dressed; more moral, as a body, in their habits, and more regular in their attendance at places of religious worship.

I cannot discover that the rate of mortality is greater now than during the apprenticeship, and I would decidedly say that offences of every kind are less frequent.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages; and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The labourers are supplied with comfortable houses upon the estates where they work, and with a piece of ground each for the cultivation of their provisions, for which no rent is charged. Their right of occupancy ceases, however, so soon as they cease to labour for

the plantation, and in the event of a labourer giving or receiving his discharge, he is allowed to sell his standing crop, or to reap it, as it becomes ripe, ample time being allowed him for this purpose by the stipendiary magistrate.

The labourers are making great exertions to become freeholders; a considerable portion have already attained their wishes, and I think it probable that, at no distant day, nearly every labourer will possess his own piece of land. The circumstance of labourers purchasing their own land has certainly tended to diminish the regular supply of labour upo n cultivated estates for a time. But this evil is only of a temporary nature, for each proprietor, directly he has built his house and planted his provision-ground, seeks daily work upon the estate nearest his dwelling.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

Churches, chapels, and schools are greatly upon the increase; nearly every estate has its school, and all are well attended; some of the young people evince considerable and surprising efficiency in reading and writing, particularly upon Plantation Everton, which school I consider to be one of the best conducted in my district. There are, as yet, no savings banks or benefit societies established in the district.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour, and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour upon every estate falls very short of what each estate requires. Many plantations have, however, been greatly aided by the judicious distribution of the captured Africans, brought to Berbice, within the last six months.

The wages paid to field labourers vary from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* per day each, and to carpenters and mechanics, from 4*s.* 2*d.* to 4*s.* 10*d.* each.

During the early part of the year some of the sugar estates suffered much in consequence of the heavy rains, and the crops upon these fell short; but the prospects of a crop next year are everywhere good, particularly upon the coffee plantations, where there has been a fine and extensive blossom.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved; any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

The cane-carrier and megass elevator are now in use upon every sugar plantation; and thus the hardest kind of work about the buildings, formerly performed by labourers, is now accomplished by machinery.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The wants of the peasantry, real and artificial, have increased greatly since the termination of the apprenticeship; and to supply these wants, stores have been established upon nearly every plantation, where are found, and readily purchased, clothing, hams, bacon, beer, porter, soap, candles, flour; and indeed all the supplies usually met with in village shops in England.

Witness my hand,
(signed) *C. H. Strutt,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

(A true Report.)

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from District (L.), in the County of *Berbice.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the Rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

The general character of the peasantry in this district is highly commendable and satisfactory. Their condition is superior to any similar class that has come under my observation.

Their dwelling-houses are comfortably furnished, but the habits of the people are not cleanly; they have an extravagant taste for dress.

The average rate of mortality during the year from ordinary diseases and old age has been two per cent. nearly.

Petty thefts and common assaults constitute their chief offences, and these are very infrequent.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages, and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The relation between the peasantry and the proprietors is, as stated in my last report, a perfect independence on the part of the people of their employers, owing to the totally inadequate supply of labour to maintain the cultivation of the staples of the country. Notwithstanding this, there is a mutual good feeling and confidence daily gaining ground with both the employer and employed. The peasantry on estates are mere tenants at will; they continue anxious to become freeholders, a feeling which, in my opinion, cannot be too much encouraged.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

As stated in my last report, there are two churches of the Establishment of Scotland; two London Missionary Society chapels; a parish school at Mara.

There is also a savings bank for the county, but the peasantry of this district do not much resort to it.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour, and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour on the sugar properties is far short of the demand; several of the coffee estates appear to have a greater number of labourers than can be employed.

Situated as the sugar and coffee estates are within this district, great advantage might arise by mutual assistance at crop time.

The wages generally average nine dollars a month's continuous labour, for one task, which in executing usually occupies four hours.

The prospects both for sugar and coffee are very good, and a considerable increase over the present year's crops may be fairly expected.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved, any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

None since the apprenticeship.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

But little internal traffic.

The timber trade is quite in its infancy; if successful, there can be no doubt but that it will be considerably augmented.

(signed) *Charles R. Whinfield,* Sheriff;
Stipendiary Magistrate, District (L.)

STIPENDIARY Magistrate's Half-Yearly REPORT, ending 31st December 1841, from District (M.), in the County of *Berbice.*

No. 1. *General Character and Condition of the Peasantry,*

Noticing any Changes observable since the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship, in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes; in the Rate of Mortality, or in the nature and frequency of Offences.

The manners, habits, and tastes of the labouring class in this colony have all improved since they have become a free peasantry. I have always seen them respectful when treated with civility. They are in general more industrious than was anticipated by the advocates for their emancipation, far more so than was predicted by the opponents of that measure. They are fond of saving, with the view of becoming independent of their employers for their cottages and provision lands, but an increased taste for the comforts, and even luxuries

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

within their reach is strikingly observable. Correct statistical returns, on a large scale, can alone ascertain the present rate of their mortality; but, from the general appearance of the children, the greatly increased care they receive from their mothers, and the abundance of every necessary comfort, I can entertain no doubt that it is considerably less than what it was when they were slaves. Distressing want, the fruitful parent of atrocious crimes, is unknown here. Their offences are comparatively venial, nor do the records of any of our criminal courts warrant the conclusion of their being frequent.

No. 2. *Relations between the Peasantry and the Proprietors,*

Adverting especially to the Conditions of Tenancy on Estates; to the Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders; to the rising up of new Hamlets and Villages; and the Effect which these Changes are supposed to have upon the Supply of Labour for the cultivation of the Staple Produce of the Colony.

The peasantry, as above stated, evince the most ardent desire to purchase land, on which to cultivate provisions and erect their own independent cottages. In this they have already succeeded to a very great extent, as will soon be proved by the return required by the late taxation ordinance of all lands in the occupancy of individuals. The very decided opposition at first evinced by proprietors to the purchase of land by the peasantry drove them to seek for settlements up the rivers, beyond the reach of those places where the staples of the colony are cultivated. Latterly they have found it to be to their interest to sell land to their labourers in the neighbourhood of their estates. In the latter case, their free settlement is not found to diminish the supply of labour on estates. The labourers mostly join in considerable numbers, and purchase a large tract of land; on this land they generally erect their houses in villages, on the high reefs, and cultivate their provisions on the more fertile low lands, often at a considerable distance from their houses.

No. 3. *New Institutions,*

As Churches, Schools, Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c.

Places of public worship and schools continue on the increase, and the peasantry, of all ages, are assiduous in attendance at both of them.

The use of savings banks is not so general as might be expected or desired.

Benefit societies exist in most of the parishes, chiefly under the direction of the clergy.

No. 4. *State and Prospects of Cultivation,*

Noticing the Supply of Labour, and the Rate of Wages; the Produce of the last Crop, and the Promise of the next; the Weather, &c.

The supply of labour in this colony is very far below the demand for it, and the addition by immigration has not been equal to what was expected. The rate of wages on estates varies from one-third to half a dollar for a day's work, according to the nature of the work. Men working singly, or in task gangs, by the job, earn considerably more than this; which acts as a premium on roving and unsettled habits, unfavourable to the domestic happiness and morals of the labouring class. I cannot speak as to the general average of the colony, but I do not think the last crop in this district (M.) will fall short of the preceding one in 1840.

From the information I receive, it is expected that the next year's crop will exceed that of the past.

The weather at present, and the appearance of the crop in the ground, is favourable.

No. 5. *Improvements and Discoveries,*

As, for instance, any new Machine by which Labour is saved, any improved Method of Cultivation, and new Manufacture, &c.

In the introduction of improvements, either in our implements of husbandry or in the mode of employing them, we are very deficient. Ploughs, whether worked by steam or animal power, are as yet hardly known, except in promise. A machine to excavate trenches, from which great advantage was anticipated, has also long been promised, but is not yet in operation.

In more advanced countries, however, agricultural improvements progress slowly; we must not, therefore, despair of seeing them in time in this comparatively new country.

In the manufacture of sugar some important improvements in machinery, though not of very recent discovery, are now universally adopted, such as cane-carriers, for conveying the canes from the punts to the mill, and elevators and railways for conveying the megass or refuse of the canes, after the juice has been expressed, to the large logies or sheds, where it is dried, after which it forms the best fuel for boiling the cane-juice.

No. 6. *State of Internal Traffic,*

Noticing the sort of Goods which are most in Demand.

The freedom of the labouring population has extended retail internal traffic throughout every inhabited quarter of the colony. Stores containing provisions and dry goods, such as labourers in easy circumstances are likely to require, are met with everywhere. A number of hucksters also travel through the country, which employment is taken up by many of the Portuguese emigrants from Madeira.

(signed) *W. J. Brittain,*
Stipendiary Magistrate, District (M.)

— No. 8. —

No. 8.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley, 2 February 1842.

(No. 30.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 2 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter addressed to the Government Secretary by a manager of an estate on the Mahaica Creek, East Coast, Demerara, with copy of reply.

This estate, "La Bonne Mère," is about 25 miles from Georgetown. The manager offered very fair terms, being equal to, or even beyond, what was given during the last year; but such was the want of confidence in the labourers, occasioned by the late "Rules and Regulations," that they would not accept them till one of their body had been deputed to see me.

I, of course, received the bearer of the letter, and recommended the immediate acceptance of the terms; with that modification, at his request, in respect to the large size of the punts, namely, than if larger than those in ordinary use for carrying canes to the mill, a reasonable compensation should be made; which is embodied in Mr. Young's reply.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 8.

Sir, La Bonne Mère, 27 January 1842. Encl. in No. 8.

IN endeavouring to make arrangements with the labourers of this estate, this morning, several of them expressed a wish to consult his Excellency the Governor before they would accept of the terms I offered them, viz. one dollar for every punt of canes cut, five bits for weeding and moulding one hundred roods of canes, and the same for all other description of field-work, according to the tariff scale of labour; no rent for the houses, free use of their provision-grounds to every one at work, pigs permitted to be kept in pens, no charge for medicine or medical attendance. Hours of labour in the field, eight o'clock in the morning, and six o'clock for people employed about the building; when making a full day's work to be paid six bits per day. May I request you will be pleased to lay this statement before his Excellency the Governor; and that the bearer, perhaps, may be favoured with his Excellency's opinion on the terms offered, which I consider just and reasonable? I promised the bearer five bits going and five returning from town, if back in two days. I do not wish to publish this private letter.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. Mackay.*

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 28 January 1842.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to acquaint you that the bearer of it has had, as you and your labourers wished, an interview this morning with his Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency has stated to the bearer that the terms offered by you appear to him to be not only very fair, but more advantageous to the labourers than those offered on other estates, with the wages and regulations of which he has had an opportunity of becoming acquainted.

The bearer states, however, that the punts are much larger at La Bonne Mère estate than at other estates; and he wishes that the stipendiary magistrate of the district should visit the estate, measure the punt, and ascertain the difference between it and those used at Plantation Good Hope or Plantation Belmont; and if they should prove to be of the

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same size as at La Bonne Mère, he will be satisfied; and, if they should prove larger, he hopes that a proportionate allowance may be made.

His Excellency considers this to be a reasonable proposal, and trusts that you will not hesitate to accede to it, as the bearer considers it will determine whether or not the labourers remain at La Bonne Mère.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

N.B.—The labourer was apprised of the contents of the Governor's address at Plantation Greenfield, and was furnished with copy.

H. E. F. Y.

R. Mackay, Esq. &c. &c.

(A true copy.)
W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

— No. 9. —

No. 9.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley,
2 February 1842.

(No. 31.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 2 February 1842.

IN consequence of receiving a letter from Stipendiary Magistrate Mure, copy of which I have the honour to transmit, in which was stated that the police were prevented by the labourers on Plantation Hague from executing a warrant on five persons who had neglected to answer the summons to attend at the magistrate's office, for investigation of a complaint made against them by a workman from another estate, for having prevented him from working on the Hague, I proceeded the following morning to that estate, west coast of Demerara, about 10 miles from Georgetown.

On the road the greatest tranquillity reigned, and although only one estate had its labourers at work, the passengers seemed quietly occupied in avocations of interest to themselves without offence to others.

On arriving at the Hague, the labourers were assembled at my desire, the number about 250; orderly and respectful in their demeanor.

I desired the government secretary, who accompanied me, to read Mr. Mure's letter, to which great attention was paid.

I then addressed them in the terms annexed, and my address was listened to with equal silence and attention; the greatest regret was expressed for what had passed; and it was evident that, had the execution of the magistrate's warrant been accompanied by explanation and reasoning, which had unfortunately been neglected by the magistrate, my presence would have been unnecessary.

As soon as I had finished speaking, and had received the general expressions of contrition, the five persons included in the warrant quietly, and without a moment's hesitation, or without any consultation with their comrades, came forward and delivered themselves up to the police serjeant in attendance, who took them to the stipendiary magistrate, who, with the complainant, was present, in order that the investigation of the parties might be proceeded with; the result of which has not yet been sent in.

The attorney of the estate was present, and, in reference to the "strike," was told by the labourers in my presence, that, had he spoken to them at the first period of the disagreements, they would have gone to work, and that they were very willing to settle their dispute with him. As I had nothing to do with the pecuniary arrangements of the estate, I could only recommend moderation and concession on both sides.

I therefore left the estate satisfied that the law was, and would be, upheld, and of the confidence of the labourers in my word.

Respectfully submitting this statement for your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE.

Tuesday 1 February 1842.

The following is an authentic account of what occurred at the Hague on the occasion of the Governor's visit, mentioned in our paper of Saturday last:

The labourers of Plantation Hague having assembled in front of the proprietor's house, the following letter was read to them by the Governor's desire, as explanatory of the cause of his Excellency's visit to the estate:

"Sir, "William House, 28 January 1842.

"On the 25th I issued summonses for the attendance of five labourers of Plantation Hague, at 11 o'clock yesterday, to answer the complaint of Thomas Chance, engineer of Plantation

Plantation Groenveld, for 'by threats, and by obstructing him on the public road on the 8th instant, forcing him to depart from his hiring or employment as engineer at Plantation Hague, on said 8th January 1842.'

"None of the defendants appeared to answer the charge, in consequence of which I issued warrants to apprehend the parties accused.

"The serjeant of police at the Edinburgh Station had just reported that he went this morning with three men to Plantation Hague, for the purpose of executing the warrants; that the moment they were seen shells were sounded, and the execution of the warrants rendered impossible, by the congregation and resistance of the whole gang of the estate. The serjeant also reports, that the people declared that the accused should not appear till the Governor came to the estate.

"The civil power at my command having been completely defeated, I feel it my duty to report the circumstances for his Excellency's information; and I would respectfully suggest the propriety of his Excellency's acceding to the wish of the people, by going to Plantation Hague, as his Excellency's admonition and advice may have the effect of restoring order and obedience to the laws, without recourse to stronger and more painful measures.

"I have, &c.

"The Hon. H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary." (signed) "*J. O. Lockhart Mure*, "S. P. J. District (E.)"

His Excellency then addressed them in the following words:

"Labourers of Plantation Hague,

"Mr. Mure, the stipendiary magistrate, has reported to me that he issued a summons for the attendance of five of your number, to answer before him a complaint from your fellow-labourer, the engineer of Plantation Groenveld.

"The five labourers who were summoned did not obey the summons.

"The next thing the law forced the magistrate to do was, through the means of the police, to arrest the persons of those who disobeyed the summons, and thus to cause them to be brought before him. The police serjeant reported to the magistrate that he and his three policemen were prevented from doing their duty by the whole of you; and that you all declared the five men against whom there was a complaint should not obey the magistrate's warrant, until I came amongst you.

"Labourers of Plantation Hague, are you mad? Have you taken leave of your senses? Do you not know that the law is above every one—that every one must obey the law? Do you not know that the magistrate is appointed by the Queen; that he will judge you according to the law, without fear, favour, or partiality? That I see and know everything that he does? That you cannot be punished for anything except for that which is unlawful? That your duty is to submit yourselves to the magistrate, and, if you are not content with his decision, you can send your petition to me? That your friends can come to me on your behalf?

"Therefore your duty is, whether you think yourselves right or wrong, to obey the magistrate.

"If you refuse obedience to the lawful orders of the magistrate, you insult the Queen; you break the law.

"And those who refuse to obey the lawful order of a magistrate or other officer of justice, who violently resist him in the execution of his duty, expose themselves, according to the violence they use and the injury they do, to be tried before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice; to be imprisoned with hard labour and solitary confinement for many years in gaol; to be sent away from the colony for ever; or even to lose their lives like miserable men, by being hanged at the gallows.

"Again I ask you, have you taken leave of your senses? The offence you commit by resisting the law is ten times a worse offence than the charge brought against those five men whom you prevented the police from bringing before the magistrate. And why should they be afraid of going before the magistrate if they have done no wrong? And why should you prevent them from going before the magistrate if they have done wrong?

"They will have a fair trial; the magistrate will hear what they have to say for themselves, and what the witnesses say; and, should they be found guilty, to me they can express their sorrow for what they have done, and ask from me the Queen's pardon.

"But can you think that you will be permitted to take the law into your own hands? to prevent the magistrate doing his duty? Such a thing is impossible; the attempt would bring down disgrace, and ruin, and death upon you.

"Be wise; take my advice: so long as you act according to law and do not refuse to submit to the law, the law cannot injure you, and you will be protected. Let nothing that can happen to you make you break the law; quietly submit to the orders of the magistrate; if you have a complaint, make it to him; if he does not do you justice, come or send your petition to me.

"But, that I may attend to your petition, do not let me hear that you have disobeyed the magistrate, or resisted the law; for then I cannot listen to your complaint; then I must tell you, as I tell you now, first obey the magistrate, and afterwards I will listen to you.

"I am your sincere friend; the advice I give you is for your own good; I wish to keep you out of mischief; until now, ever since the free time, I have been proud of your good conduct. This business, however, which to day has brought me amongst you, has occa-

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sioned me great pain and great disappointment. I did not think that any labourer in this colony would be so foolish as to suppose he must first see me before he would obey the magistrate. Recollect this is not now a business connected with wages, or work, or good treatment, or bad treatment; it is only whether you are to obey the summons of the Queen's magistrate, or whether you are to refuse to obey it.

"I know you said you would obey after you had seen me, but this is wrong; in every case you must immediately obey the magistrate.

"Don't you see what opportunity you give those who are not your friends to say: 'Look at these people, they cannot be fit for freedom, for they take the law into their own hands. They will not obey the law like other people, willingly; but they require to be compelled to obey by force and punishment, as if they had no sense or reason.'

"Labourers of the Hague, if there are any persons who thus think meanly of you, disappoint them; show that you are ready and willing to obey the law, let what will happen.

"Upon the subject of wages and work, and the new rules and regulations, you are perfectly free to act as you please. If you do not like your master's terms you need not accept them, but in that case you must leave your master's property; for the land and the cottage belong to him, and not to you, and you cannot keep another man's property.

"But again I tell you, that refusing to obey a magistrate's summons, resisting the police until you had seen me, is a very different thing from deciding whether you will take or refuse your master's terms.

"It is lawful for you to take or refuse your master's terms; it is not lawful for you to prevent another freeman from working, because you do not choose to work; above all, it is not lawful to refuse to obey the summons of the magistrate; it is not lawful to prevent the police doing their duty until you see me. Therefore, I now desire the five men against whom Thomas Chance, engineer of Plantation Groenveld, made a complaint to the magistrate, to deliver themselves up to the police, in order to be conducted before the magistrate, and to take their trial, whether they be guilty, or whether they be not guilty, according to the sentence of the magistrate, after he shall have heard both sides of the question.

"Let the five men and Thomas Chance, and the witnesses on both sides, and the magistrate, now go into that room; and after trial the magistrate will make a report to me.

"As to the rest of the people, I am willing to hear anything they have to say upon the subject of their not being able to make an agreement to work. But I must tell them that I cannot interfere, only with advice; for I have no power to make the master give more than he offers; if you and the master cannot agree, you must separate quietly and peaceably, and leave the estate, and look for work somewhere else."

The five accused persons then, by a police serjeant, were conducted into a room at the other end of the building, and Thomas Chance, the complainant, proceeded there to prefer his complaint before the magistrate.

The labourers expressed great regret for having deterred the police from doing their duty; promised never so to act again. The Governor then caused to be read a complaint which had been handed to him by the labourers, and proceeded to inquire how it was that so long a time had elapsed without their coming to an agreement to work with their master.

The labourers answered that the Hague people were quiet people, and wanted to work, but that Mr. Grant would never come to speak fair to them himself, but sent only his manager to talk to them and make them take the new regulations.

That this story would have been cut long ago if Mr. Grant had himself spoke fair to them instead of sending his manager.

Mr. Grant then offered terms to the labourers, to which there seemed some probability of their acceding; and his Excellency, having repeatedly expressed his hope that they would come to a mutual understanding, took his leave of both parties, and left them in the act of discussing the conditions on which they would resume work.

No. 10. Governor Light to Lord Stanley, 2 February 1842.

— No. 10. —

(No. 32.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Demerara, 2 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of letters from Stipendiary Magistrate Ware to the Government Secretary, from Mr. MacRae, a proprietor of Leguan, to Mr. Ware; of my Minute to the latter, and of his reply.

Mr. Ware's letter, first on the file, states that he declined assisting at the ejectments proposed by Mr. MacRae without further instructions from me.

The stipendiary magistrates throughout the colony were furnished with instructions, based on the opinions of the Attorney-general in 1839, that in cases of ejectment they were to be present to keep the peace—not to eject—and on these Mr. Ware acted.

Mr. MacRae's letter feared resistance; my Minute to the stipendiary magistrate was read to the labourers on Mr. MacRae's estate, and no resistance was offered. Those labourers whom Mr. MacRae wished to eject from their cottages quietly left them, as will be seen in Mr. Ware's last letter.

I have

I have the satisfaction of knowing that where the law has been clearly pointed out to the labourers, and ejectments were seriously contemplated by the employers, there has not been the least disposition on the part of the labourers to resist.

* * * * *

Happily the population have, in every instance, shown their perfect confidence in the administration of the law, and have cheerfully submitted to it. Without this confidence how could a scattered population of 20,000 or 25,000 able-bodied labourers, with their families, have passed a whole month in a state of comparative idleness, without some outbreak of displeasure shown in acts of violence against those who may be said to have desired to impose illegal restrictions on the rights of the labourers?

I have great pleasure in stating to your Lordship that this state of affairs is drawing to a close; yesterday many estates renewed their work, and the example will, no doubt, be more or less followed throughout the two counties.

* * * * *

Enclosure in No. 10.

(1.)

Sir, Stipendiary Magistrate's Office, Leguan, 24 January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to lay before his Excellency the Governor, a letter which I have this morning received from Mr. MacRae, the attorney of Plantations Enterprise, Domenhang, Good Success, and Endeavour, situated in this district, in which he states that in consequence of the continued disposition of the labourers upon these estates not to work for a reduced rate of wages, it is his intention to eject from these properties those whom he considers to take the most prominent part in advising their fellow-labourers not to accede to the reduced rate of wages. Encl. in No. 10.

As Mr. MacRae in this communication requests, in the event of those labourers whom he may select, not complying with his orders to quit the property, that I will give him my magisterial assistance to effect any ejectments he may wish to make, I beg to inform you that, in conformity with his Excellency's circular of the 31st of December last, I have declined giving that gentleman the assistance which he anticipates will be required, until I receive further instructions from his Excellency; at the same time I intimated to Mr. MacRae that I would, by his desire, lay his letter before the Governor.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Walter Howard Ware,*
Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Hon. the Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)
H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(2.)

Sir, Plantation Endeavour, Leguan, 24 January 1842.

IN consequence of the comparative low prices of produce for some time back, as well as from other causes, I have found that the estates under my charge within your magisterial district, viz. this estate, the Enterprise, the Domenhang, and the Good Success, have been sinking money, or, in other words, that the proceeds of the produce made upon those properties have not been sufficient by a considerable sum to pay the expenses incurred upon them; in order to alleviate this state of things, I was, on the 29th of December last, induced to propose to the labourers then employed on these properties certain modifications of the conditions upon which they have been employed previous to that period, tending to a reduction of expenditure. I then told the people that these changes have become a matter of necessity with me, and not a matter of choice; that they could take a reasonable time to think of them, and if they chose to accept them that I should feel much obliged to them, but if not, that I could not go on on the former conditions; and if they did not choose to remain with me under the proposed new order of things, that they must of course seek employment elsewhere. I have seen the people on these four estates on two different occasions since the 29th of December, and on these occasions I renewed my amicable negotiations with them, in the hope of inducing them to return to their duty, but I regret to say without effect, as they still continue to occupy the cottages belonging to the estates, in a state of perfect idleness, and I regret to say in some instances of insubordination, of which you are cognizant.

This is a state of things that I cannot, either in justice to my constituents, to the labourers, or to myself, allow to continue longer, and I gave the people generally notice on Saturday last, that those of them who were able and did not turn out to their work on Monday morning (to-day) must make up their minds to leave the estates, and that after that day I should commence selecting amongst the refractory the ringleaders, and discharging them from the properties. Now, Sir, on the Domenhang in particular, where the people have been particularly unreasonable and violent, I expect to meet with opposition in accomp-

lishing the removal of some of the most refractory subjects from the estate, and I write this specially to inquire, in the event of experiencing such opposition, whether you are authorised, under the circumstances of the case detailed, to aid me in ejecting any such refractory characters? If you are not, probably you will be pleased to communicate with his Excellency the Governor on the subject, and inform me of the result, at your earliest convenience, as, if the present state of idleness and anarchy amongst the labouring classes is longer tolerated, it must be attended with ruinous effects to the colony.

I have, &c.

W. H. Ware, Esq. Stipendiary Magistrate, District (F.) (signed) *A. MacRae.*

(A true copy of copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(3.)

COPY of the Governor's Order on the Letter of *Alexander MacRae*, dated 24th January 1842.

Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate Ware must proceed immediately to the estates whence Mr. MacRae proposes to eject the labourers, most refractory, from his premises. He must address those persons in the name of Her Majesty, represented here by the Governor. He must inform them that, although the Governor can protect them when they do not act contrary to law, yet he cannot do so when the labourers act unlawfully.

That, if these people are not satisfied with the wages offered, they must leave the estate, and seek employment elsewhere; and there is no doubt that employment can be obtained if they choose to seek it. That they cannot be allowed to remain on the estate contrary to the wishes of the employer, who has full right, after due notice being given to them, to require they should leave his property. That notice seems to have been duly given, and it must be obeyed. That it will be useless to attempt resistance if once the strength of the law shall be used against them,—a strength which the Governor will be sorry to see used against those who have hitherto showed so peaceable and submissive a disposition.

Mr. Ware must point out to the labourers that many of the estates' labourers in Demerara are at work, seeing that the employers cannot afford to pay the same high rate of wages as during the last year: and that the labourers have no longer any reason to fear the enforcemont of the "Rules and Regulations," their objectionable and illegal clauses being universally abandoned.

Mr. Ware will immediately report the results of his address to the labourers, whom he trusts will have the good sense now to see they have no longer reason for remaining in a state of idleness, which must tend to the ruin of the estates, as well as considerable danger of serious consequences to the labourers themselves. Mr. Ware will not for the present exert other means than that of persuasion and conciliatory language.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

(A true copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(4.)

Sir, Wakenaam, 29 January 1842.

IN reply to his Excellency's minute of the 26th instant, requiring me to be present at certain ejectments which Mr. MacRae proposes to make upon Plantations Domenhang, Enterprise, and Endeavour, situate in this district, I have the honour to inform you that I attended at these estates yesterday, and having warned those who were selected by Mr. MacRae to quit not to use any violence, nor break the peace, it affords me pleasure to state that they quietly left their houses and went to seek employment elsewhere. Having left his Excellency's minute upon my table, at my residence in Leguan, I am unable to forward it to-day; but it shall be returned to the Government Secretary's office upon my return home.

I am at present visiting the different estates in this island, in order to read and explain his Excellency's address to the labourers; and so soon as I have gone through the whole district, I shall report for the Governor's information the state of the same.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Government Secretary. (signed) *Walter Howard Ware,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

(A true copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

— No. 11. —

(No. 33.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 11.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
2 February 1842.

My Lord, Government-House, Demerara, 2 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a letter received from Mr. Garnett, the proprietor of an estate on the east sea-coast, Demerara, about four miles from Georgetown; I also annex copy of reply, by my instructions given to it, by the Government Secretary.

My only anxiety has been, since the commencement of the disagreement between the labourers and their employers, lest the former should be excited to any acts of violence, which might require the intervention of more than the ordinary modes of preserving public peace.

Happily scarcely anything has occurred which might be considered a transgression of the laws, that would not have taken place in seasons of less importance.

It is very possible that persons, abstaining from the usual labours of the estates may be observed fishing, shooting, or even lounging about; but lawless depredations cannot have been committed without the cognizance of the stipendiary magistrates, or that the facts have not been such as to require their interference.

I have shown that, where ejectments were seriously contemplated, they have been effected. It has been more for the interest of the proprietors to tolerate the occupation of their cottages on the estates, than to require the abandonment of them by all their labourers.

The labourers therefore kept possession of their cottages, not in defiance of their employers, but because the latter anticipated reconciliation and submission.

I have directed extracts from Mr. Garnett's letter to be sent to the stipendiary magistrates for their remarks. These replies, as far as received, I have the honour to forward.

Stipendiary Magistrate Maclennan, in whose district Mr. Garnett's estate is situated, has entered fully into the points dwelt on by Mr. Garnett; and I trust the impartial observations of this magistrate will satisfy your Lordship that those of Mr. Garnett are without foundation.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosures in No. 11.

(1.)

Sir, Cuming Lodge, 27 January 1842.

Encl. in No. 11.

I DEEM it to be a part of my duty to the public to represent to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the very alarming condition of the agricultural relations of the counties of Demerara and Essequibo at this moment. It is a condition similar to which, I sincerely believe, no country was ever placed in before without social disorganisation, or of which country the population were under any control or subordination to the laws. Over the whole length and breadth of these two counties, nearly all the estates have been denuded voluntarily of labourers, under the pretence that their employers would only pay equal to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* each task, equivalent to seven and a half hours' labour. In my intercourse with many gangs this has been the sole reason advanced. This population—this enormous body of ignorant labouring persons—are roaming over the face of the country, keeping forcible possession of their houses, existing by fishing, hunting, and all manner of illegal encroachments upon the properties, and in open defiance of the owners and representatives of the estates. Thefts and robberies are also of very frequent occurrence. In short, the frame-work of our social structure shows lamentable symptoms of approaching disorder. The magisterial and police institutions are either deficient in jurisdiction or in power to meet the great exigency of the present crisis. It is an every-day occurrence to see a body of able-bodied idlers enter an estate with nets and guns, and, in defiance of the owner or resident, fish and hunt over the whole of its land in the most insolent and audacious manner. The public roads swarm with unlicensed hucksters, and all sorts of vagabonds, receiving and bartering the result of these encroachments, and other stolen property, with the most complete impunity, along the very paths of the police.

So long, then, as a population can be allowed to exist by encroachment and rapine, and by destruction of private property, uncontrolled by the laws of the land, it is not probable such population will generally return to a sense of public duty, or personal honest industry, as the means of supporting domestic comfort, or of maintaining the peace, respectability, or general prosperity of the province.

Within the last week I have been nearly all over the county of Essequibo, and the following are all the estates which I understood had labourers at work upon them :—

On the Arabian Coast.—Land of Plenty, Anna Regina (partially); Mainstay, Three Friends, Aberdeen (all partially); and Taymouth Manor. Also Zorg, where the proprietor made no alteration in wages; and Bathsheba's Lust.

On Wakenaam. — Zelandia, Meerzorg, Caledonia, Ridge, Amersfort, and Palmyra. Maria Johanna and Arthurville were said to be working.

Not one estate at work on Leguan, and in the parishes of St. Paul's and St. Mary's I have not heard of any estate at work, except Felicity, Montrose, and Grove.

Trusting to his Excellency's receiving the importance of the subject as my apology for troubling him with so long a communication, and fervently hoping that in his wisdom his Excellency may devise the means of restoring the country to peace, order, security, and prosperity,

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(signed) *Abraham Garnett.*

(2.)

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara,
28 January 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive and submit to his Excellency your letter of yesterday's date, which reached me to-day. His Excellency desires me to assure you that no apology whatever was necessary for bringing under his notice what appears to you to be the very alarming condition of the agricultural relations of the counties of Demerara and Essequibo.

No one more than his Excellency sincerely deplores the general cessation of work which has been occasioned in Demerara and Essequibo by the sudden publication of certain new rules and regulations, of which some have been pronounced by the Attorney and Solicitor-general to be illegal, and of the greater part of the others it has at length been found, very generally, that their adoption was either impracticable or impolitic.

His Excellency is, however, happy to think that the general opinion on the coast of Essequibo is, as he has this morning learned from a gentleman recently from thence, that work will be resumed at the beginning of the month, and that in the county of Essequibo there are estates working which are not included in your enumeration; and that in the county of Demerara there is every prospect of the ordinary industry of the population being resumed very shortly.

Of the great loss which has already accrued, and of the greater detriment which has probably been occasioned to the crop of the ensuing year, his Excellency is by no means insensible. The mischief has, however, been occasioned by differences between master and servant, in which the Governor was wholly unable to interfere beyond the extent to which his interposition has already gone, viz. by suggestion, advice, and warning to the numerous deputations of labourers, from both counties, who had interviews with his Excellency; and by instructions to the magistracy; and a published address to the labourers on an estate where the new rules and regulations, in their most obnoxious provisions, were not in force. On all these occasions his Excellency was gratified to observe the intelligence and general moderation of the people; nor does his Excellency's information lead him to concur with you in thinking that the administration of the law has suffered any serious impediment, or that the people, by force, are keeping possession of their masters' tenements. On the contrary, his Excellency knows that the few ejectments reported to him as having taken place, were effected in the ordinary way; that a few fines were imposed and paid for injuries done to property at the time of ejectment; and that but a single instance of an attempt forcibly to regain possession of a cottage has been made known to his Excellency, and this was accompanied by an intimation that the party was duly committed, for this breach of the peace, to trial before the Inferior Criminal Court.

His Excellency will be happy to afford you the best assistance and advice in his power in any case of a breach of the law which shall have been duly submitted to the proper tribunal, and, although established, is suffered to remain unpunished.

I have, &c.

Abraham Garnett, Esq.
&c. &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

(3.)

Sir,

Stipendiary Magistrate's Office, District (B.), 1 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing an extract of a letter from Mr. Abraham Garnett, containing the result of his observations on the present state of the country, during a tour which is supposed to have included the district under my magisterial charge; and requesting my opinion thereon.

In obedience to this request I beg to report—

1st. That it has not been represented to me, and that it has not in any way come under my notice, that an "enormous body of ignorant labouring persons are roaming over the country, and keeping forcible possession of their houses," as represented by Mr. Garnett's letter; on the contrary, the people have hitherto (I mean since the strike "occasioned by the Rules and Regulations" got up by the proprietary body) conducted themselves in, I may

may say, a remarkably peaceable manner; and instead of keeping forcible possession of their houses, as far as it has come to my knowledge, they have been, without any symptom of resistance, giving up possession as required, and many of them, without any direct previous notice to quit, are removing themselves and families from their possessions upon estates.

2d. It does not consist with my knowledge, either from personal observation or from the representation of any parties, that the labourers are existing by fishing, hunting, and all other manners of illegal encroachments. It is very probable, however, that some of them do fish and hunt as a partial means of subsistence; but, in the absence of any complaint on the subject, except from Mr. Garnett, it may reasonably be inferred that they do not do so in defiance of the owners and representatives of estates.

3d. That petty thieving, particularly on plantain-walks and provision-grounds, has become more frequent since the strike than formerly, I have every reason to believe; and until the existing misunderstanding between employers and labourers be adjusted, such delinquencies may be apprehended to continue on the increase; in which case, the present police force stationed in the rural districts (there is only one constable residing within five miles of my office) may be found inadequate to meet the exigency.

4th. I am very often travelling upon the roads, but I never saw them swarming with unlicensed hucksters and all sorts of vagabonds, receiving and bartering stolen property with the most complete impunity; and I, therefore, take it for granted that Mr. Garnett does not allude to any road in this district.

That people are now to be seen upon the roads in much larger numbers than previous to the "strike" is quite true, but that the labouring classes in any part of the colony (judging from the quiet and respectful demeanor of such as I have as yet met with on roads in this district) come under the designations given by Mr. Garnett, or indulge in such illegal acts as he describes, appears to me highly improbable.

I shall only further add that due cognizance has been taken of every breach of the law brought under my notice. Mr. Garnett, who is likewise in the commission of the peace, can of course explain why he overlooked the illegal acts which appear from his letter to have fallen under his personal observation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Dan. Maclennan,*
Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Sir, Sheriff's Office, Essequibo, 7 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st of January, together with the accompanying extract. With reference to those documents, I beg to state that I conceive the population of this district have made as much progress in the acquirement of knowledge and information as could reasonably be expected, considering the state from which they have so lately been removed, and the circumstances under which they have been placed.

I am not aware of any instance in which forcible possession has been attempted to be kept of their houses when the legal means have been used to eject them, nor am I aware of any illegal encroachments on the properties of others in defiance of the managers or owners of estates; and I am fully persuaded that, were such an occurrence to take place, the order of a magistrate upon the spot would immediately cause the difficulty to be removed.

I am not aware of any case of illegal hunting shooting, or fishing, no such complaint having been brought to me.

The number of thefts and other criminal offences has increased during the past month, but I trust that the due administration of the law will have the effect of rendering the calendar of the present month much less, and I cannot at present see any symptoms of approaching disorder.

I consider the police force is quite sufficient on the whole, if they would only do their duty; but I regret to say that too many cases of neglect and inattention occur in this immediate district, caused, I believe, by the small and inadequate number of privates kept at Pomona, which ought to be the principal station in the county.

The Commissary of Taxation in this district reported to me, a few days ago in my office, that he was regular in examining all hucksters regarding their licences, and that he had not, of late, detected a single instance of illicit traffic.

When vagabonds or others are found in the receipt of stolen property, the cases are duly investigated, and, if found guilty, they are promptly dealt with as the law directs.

Since the passing and publishing of the new rules and regulations by the proprietors' attorneys and managers of estates, the people on some estates have for the last month refused to work; on others they have continued steady in their usual occupations: those properties, I consider, will have derived considerable benefit by the increase of labour with which they have been supplied, in consequence of the people having refused to work on estates where the new regulations have been attempted to be enforced.

In Trinity Parish and in Wakenaam I believe it to be much the same, and that the

labourers are gradually returning to their work; but in Leguan, from whence I returned yesterday, I regret to say the case is widely different: from all I could learn, not a single field labourer was at work, nor was there any disposition evinced to do so; and unless something can be done to improve the condition of that island, I fear it must soon be pretty generally abandoned, as regards sugar cultivation.

I am of opinion that, on those estates where the new rules are attempted to be strictly enforced, the labourers will not return to their work unless they are ejected from their houses and provision-lands.

Had the matter been fully explained in the first instance, and had the labourers been made to understand that they must either quit or go to their work, I have little doubt but that a week would have arranged the whole matter, and they would have resumed their labour either on the estates on which they reside, or upon others to which they might have removed.

To this course those in charge of estates had an objection, in consequence of the scarcity of labour, and being more disposed to give time for consideration than to risk any extensive loss of hands; and to this, with the publication of the new regulations, is to be ascribed the present cessation from labour.

I shall feel obliged by your laying this report before his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.

(signed) *M. L. Fowler.*

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)

W B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Sir, Marin's Lodge, Essequibo, 7 February 1842.

In reply to your question, "Whether 'the district in which I am commissary swarms with a number of unlicensed hucksters," I have the honour to report that, from the date of my appointment to the present time, I have not detected in any instance a person huckstering without a licence, except such articles where no licence is requisite. Being constantly on the road, I never omit demanding a sight of it from persons whom I suspect of huckstering; and having fortunately adopted the custom of affixing my initials and the date upon each licence I examine, I can defeat the assertion which might be made that "this district swarms with a number of unlicensed hucksters," and that in this particular I have neglected my duty.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Macneil,*

Commissary, Taxation, District, No. 2.

His Honour M. L. Fowler, Sheriff, &c. &c. &c.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

(Extract.)

Sir, District (H.) 5 February 1842.

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 31st of January, forwarding an extract from Mr. Garnett's letter, dated 27th of January 1842, for my opinion and report.

I have ascertained that Mr. Garnett, when he lately visited this district, did not proceed beyond Plantation Columbia, of which estate he is the joint attorney with Mr. Naghten. Mr. Garnett therefore passed only two estates, Taynmouth Manor and Affiance, under my magisterial charge; and as the labourers on both were at work, besides those on the four next estates (Aberdeen, Three Friends, Mainstay, and Land of Plenty), he could only have witnessed idleness on Plantation Columbia.

I shall now proceed to advert to Mr. Garnett's allegations *seriatim:*

1. Mr. Garnett may possibly have seen, as I did, many labourers from the lower part of the district going to seek temporary employment at Plantation Daagerhead and Mocha (Queen's Town); fully three-fourths of the labourers who struck work employed themselves in the cultivation of their own provision-grounds.

2. No complaint of any kind was at that period made to me of the negroes keeping forcible possession of their houses. The occupation must therefore have been with the tacit permission of managers or others in charge of estates; indeed, it was perfectly understood among the employers that no attempt at ejectment should be made until every other means of reconciling the people to the new system had failed. The following paragraph in Mr. Simpson's letter of the 13th of January to his manager at La Belle Alliance will exemplify what is now stated: "I would not wish you to take any, the least, notice of the people idling their time and occupying the houses until the *general strike* is at an end. I am quite prepared to expect them to remain idle all this month," &c.

A few labourers might have been seen here and there fishing with a small seine in the trenches;

trenches; this was not objected to. Of hunting, Mr. Garnett could have witnessed little or nothing, as game is rarely seen in the region which he traversed.

3. What Mr. Garnett means by "all manner of illegal encroachments upon the properties in open defiance of the owners and representatives," I am really at a loss to determine, as when he mentioned "fishing and hunting" he seems nearly to have exhausted that subject.

4. Petty thefts sometimes occur; robbery by force scarcely ever. As these cases, when they can be substantiated, are brought before the inferior courts of criminal justice, a reference to the records of these tribunals will be the best reply to this assertion. The magisterial and police institutions are neither deficient in jurisdiction nor power to meet any emergency which has yet occurred, or which is likely to arise in this district.

5. Huckstering is almost exclusively carried on here by the immigrants from Madeira; in no instance have I found these persons unprovided with a licence, although I have frequently demanded to see them.

* * * * *

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. A. Allen*, Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(Copy.)

Stipendiary Magistrate's Office,

Sir, District (G.) County of Essequibo, 8 February 1842.

It affords me great pleasure to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that District (G.), including 19 estates under my charge, is going on most satisfactorily.

That on all the estates in this district the labourers are at work, with the exception of five estates; and I have every reason to believe that those five will resume their work immediately, and all the estates, generally speaking, at the old rate of wages.

The labourers' conduct during the disagreement between themselves and their employers has been beyond praise; not only is their conduct extremely civil, but the absence of complaints against them is remarkable.

It is more than seven months since I had the honour of being appointed to this important district, and during that period only one complaint was referred by me to the Inferior Criminal Court, viz. stealing sugar. This shows the paucity of complaints regarding thefts; moreover, I am borne out by the record book of the inferior courts, as on the 5th instant I was a member of the Inferior Criminal Monthly Court, held at Capoey gaol, and there was not a single instance tried of theft, and only two convictions, one a petty assault, the other for absconding from the gaol yard, thinking his time had expired.

The population of this district embraces 6,000 souls.

I have, &c.

(signed) *A. M. Lyons*,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Sir, Upper District (C.), 5 February 1842.

I do myself the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the labourers in this district, generally, have resumed their work, although many changes have taken place in their location, and that some of the managers have informed me they are full-handed, and that the people behave well, and work better than ever they did.

The estates on which I cannot report so favourably as on the others are Plantations Friendship, Little Diamond, and Providence; but I have reason to hope that in a short time I may be able to report all the estates in the district in full work.

I believe that no differences exist between the labourers and the employers, except with regard to the amount of wages offered.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Coleman*, S. J. P.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(Copy.)

Stipendiary Magistrate's Office, District (B.),
5 February 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that since the 1st instant the people have been gradually turning out to field work upon several estates in this district. On Better Hope and Vryheid's Lust the whole gangs have been to work, and I have just now learned that the labourers of Goodverwayhting resumed work yesterday morning. On the latter estate a great many of the people had been ejected on the 2d, but having agreed to work for the wages proposed (f. 1), they have all been restored to their houses, &c. No instance of any resistance to such ejectments, or any attempt to commit a breach of the peace has occurred.

The question of wages forms now the only difference between the employers and labourers, and from the statements of many of the latter to me in the course of my visits this week to nearly all the sugar estates in the district, respecting their present straitened means of subsistence, I have reason to believe that in a very few days more they will all be reconciled to work on the reduced rate of wages.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dan. Maclennan,*
Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c.

(True copy.)
H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

— No. 12. —

No. 12. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 3 February 1842.

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 3 February 1842.

No. 36.

THE Government Secretary having alluded to two letters received from Mr. Rose, in reply to that gentleman, enclosed with my succeeding despatch, I have the honour to forward a copy of Mr. Rose's second letter.

Mr. Rose's allusion to Captain Allen's interference requires me to say, that on complaint being made by the African labourers to Captain Allen relative to the "Rules and Regulations," he took the proper and courteous step of referring them to Mr. Rose, previous to entering into an investigation.

The printed document annexed to Mr. Rose's letter is perfectly correct, and though not official, is different only from my instructions to the agents in naming a monthly salary, instead of so much per task—the amount the same, provided the labourer performed a daily task at one guilder.

The document signed R. Kingston offered cottages, provision-grounds, and medical attendance, as an additional and permanent gratuity; the "Rules and Regulations" made these gratuities dependent on private arrangement.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 12.

Sir, Rose House, Georgetown, 31 January 1842.

Encl. in No. 12.

MR. HUTSON, the manager of Plantation Lima, has sent to me a letter which he received from you, dated the 8th of January.

The African labourers whose names are mentioned in that letter were living in perfect contentment on the estate, until Captain Allen excited their dissatisfaction, and advised them to come to town.

They had been paid the same rates of wages as other labourers, and they are, equally with the others, subject to the new rules, as far as they relate to wages.

On their arrival on the estate, they were placed in cottages, to each of which was attached a small piece of garden land. These gardens it is my intention to leave in their possession, as they are near the cottages, and do not interfere with the other arrangements of the estate.

To show that the rates of wages now offered to the Africans are not lower than was promised them in Africa, I beg to enclose a printed copy of the address of Mr. Kingston in Sierra Leone.

In conclusion, I beg to state that it is Captain Allen, who, by his constant interference with the affairs of the estates, has caused the discontent and dissatisfaction at present existing among the labourers in a district of the colony where, before he appeared in it, the utmost harmony between employer and labourer prevailed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Peter Rose.*

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c.

NOTICE to EMIGRANTS for DEMERARA.

HER Gracious Majesty the Queen having, by her principal Secretary of State for the colonies of Great Britain, authorized the emigration of free African labourers to Demerara, where they will be landed unrestricted, and they are at liberty at once to hire themselves to the highest bidder:

In that "magnificent province" they will receive great wages and excellent provisions.

Should they not immediately procure other offers, I hereby guarantee them the following rate of wages:

Tariff of Wages.

8 ½ Spanish dollars per month, with comfortable lodgings, and a sufficient extent of garden-ground, medical attendance, and medicine.

Tariff of labour for the above wages, 7 ½ hours per day.

Or, in lieu of the above wages, I will guarantee them at their option,

5 ½ Spanish dollars per month.
14 pints of rice per week.
3 ½ lbs. of salt fish or pork.
A small gratuity of rum, tobacco and pipes, with a comfortable lodging, and sufficient garden-ground, medical attendance, and medicine.

You will clearly understand, free African labourers, that this scale of wages is binding upon me and my constituents, but not on the emigrant; on his arrival at Demerara (British Guiana) he is immediately to be at liberty to dispose of his labour to the highest bidder.

They will in fact be transferred to the appropriation and disposal of his Excellency the Governor of Demerara.

Liberated African labourers, free settlers and others,—I act, and will always act, with rectitude, honestly, and with honesty of purpose towards you. We hold out no delusive hopes nor expectations, nor offer extravagant wages that cannot be realised.

My friends, the respectable and opulent proprietors and other colonists at Demerara would scorn such a mode of proceeding. We offer you high and regular wages for limited and reasonable hours of labour.

In periods of scarcity of labour, you may gain half a Spanish dollar per diem, as stated in the Trinidad address, or 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* by piece-work, as offered in the Jamaica address.

I again repeat, you can offer your labour, on landing at Demerara, to the highest bidder, perfectly unrestricted. But I guarantee to you the aforesaid scale of wages and provisions, with lodging and garden ground, medical attendance, &c., for your labour of seven and a half hours, the time of labour being ten hours in Sierra Leone.

Demerara (in the Governor-generalship of British Guiana) is nearly similar in climate and in its productions to Sierra Leone; it is situated in the West Indies, on the continent of South America, and is much the nearest point to Sierra Leone, of Her Majesty's possessions and colonies therein.

We propose, and intend to establish, steam-boat communication between the two colonies of Demerara and Sierra Leone, which will be reciprocally advantageous, and the passage will then be made in 10 days, the average time now employed in going to the Gambia; so that you will have constant and immediate opportunities of returning expeditiously, and communicating with your friends here, which we shall most particularly encourage, and trust thereby to gain your entire confidence in our endeavours to obtain your honest and industrious labour for a liberal remuneration.

I offer to the liberated Africans located in the towns or villages of Kissy, Wellington, Hastings, Waterloo, Gloucester, Regent, Bathurst, and Charlotte (provided a sufficient number of people of both sexes enter), to convey to Demerara a deputation of their friends, consisting of one from each town, which persons they themselves can select. They can see the country with their own eyes, make their observations, and report to their friends their opinion.

I will send them back at the earliest opportunity, free of all expense.

(signed) *R. Kingston*,
Agent-general for Demerara, British Guiana.

(Extract.)

Sir, District (H.), 5 February 1842.

I HAVE perused a letter dated the 31st ultimo, addressed to you by Mr. Rose, which has been referred to me by order of his Excellency the Governor.

* * * * * * *

The Sierra Leone immigrants on Lima came to me on the 3d of January, in consequence of the dissatisfaction arising from the "Rules and Regulations" which Mr. Rose had forwarded to their manager (Mr. Hutson) in December, to take effect from the 1st of January.

What then passed between these immigrants and myself I detailed to the manager, and subsequently reported for the information of his Excellency. I did not express to the immigrants any opinion on the merits of their complaint, though I told Mr. Hutson that if the inducements held out to them at Sierra Leone had not been realized, they had a just

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

claim to be sent back. I certainly understood that Mr. Hutson had likewise advised a deputation to Mr. Rose; but I well remember that he did not evince the slightest dissatisfaction at anything I had said or done on the occasion.

In my journal of the 14th January, I find the following entry, viz.: "Thomas Cole (foreman), for self and Sierra Leone immigrants, says he has been to town and seen the governor. Could not see Mr. Rose, who was sick."

"Recommended all to go to work, as the Portuguese have done, until my return from Georgetown."

Cole, who was with me to-day, says he well recollects my advice that the people should go to work; that he told them to do so; but they had refused, and wanted to beat him, saying that "he (Cole) had made them fool, because he told them at Sierra Leone that they would get five bitts at Lima for the task, besides sugar and rum; that when the sugar and rum was taken away, they got nothing in place of it, and had afterwards brought down the wages to one guilder." Cole further positively asserts that Mr. Kingston told them all at Sierra Leone they would get half a dollar for the task; and that if they turned round and did another task, they would get a dollar a day.

Mr. Rose states that "it is Captain Allen who, by his constant interference with the affairs of the estates, has caused the discontent and dissatisfaction at present existing among the labourers in a district of the colony, where before he appeared the umost harmony between employer and labourer prevailed." Now Mr. Rose cannot but be aware, that notwithstanding my appearance in the district in the month of July last, the utmost harmony prevailed up to the 31st of December, a harmony only interrupted since the 1st of January, when the illegal or impolitic "Rules and Regulations," in the formation of which Mr. Rose, I fancy, took no inconsiderable part, were supposed to come into operation; and even since the 1st of January, I do not think that greater industry or quietness has prevailed in any other district of Demerara or Essequibo; whilst more than one manager could testify that the reconciliation which has been effected between them and their labourers was chiefly to be ascribed to my good offices and reasonable mediation.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c.

(signed) *J. A. Allen,* Stipendiary Magistrate.

No. 13. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 3 February 1842.

— No. 13. —

(No. 36.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Demerara, 3 February 1842.

I HAD the honour of enclosing, with the documents accompanying my despatch No. 4, date January 6, the copy of a letter addressed to the Honourable Peter Rose, by the Government Secretary, pointing out the illegality of the "Rules and Regulations" sent by Mr. Rose to the Essequibo Coast, one copy of which was signed by him.

It was my duty to warn him of the effect such illegality would probably have on the minds of the labourers, and I trusted to his good sense to retrace his steps.

Mr. Rose, as I mentioned, was ill at the time, and could not answer me. The "Rules and Regulations" were not withdrawn, and the continuance of the "strike" has been the consequence.

Mr. Rose's illness having abated, he addressed a letter to the Government Secretary, of which I have the honour to forward a copy, with copy of reply from the Government Secretary. 1. 2.

I have no other comment to make on Mr. Rose's letter than to observe that, whatever may have been the views he took of the relative rights of employer and employed, it was most impolitic to frame, and print, and affix on the estate's buildings, "Rules and Regulations", which infringed on the rights of the labourers, and which, being illegal, could not be carried into effect; and which, had they been legal, were the result of a combination of the planters, in which the labourers had no part.

The "Rules and Regulations" made no exception in favour of emigrants, and though Mr. Rose may not have intended to apply them to such description of persons, they were tacitly included under that which was published; that which included no exception was to be considered general, and so it was considered by the intelligent Sierra Leone people who laid their complaints before me.

* * * * * * *

But for the presence of the stipendiary magistracy, the "strike," I fear, would not have been of so tranquil a nature. There is more or less activity in the execution of their duty according to their age, talents and disposition. Captain Allen is amongst the magistrates foremost in the confidence of the labourers, without injustice to the employers.

* * * * * * *

Enclosure in No. 13.

Sir, Rose House, Georgetown, 31 January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, written by desire of his Excellency the Governor, which was delivered to me upon the same day, but to which I have been unable to send an earlier reply, as the state of my health has rendered it impossible for me to attend to any kind of business. Encl. in No. 13.

I trust that his Excellency will consider this apology sufficient for the delay that has been incurred in answering your letter.

His Excellency is pleased to call upon me to exercise any influence that I may possess in preventing certain rules for the regulation of estates' labourers from being carried into effect in the county of Essequibo. His Excellency cannot be ignorant that the greater number of the estates in this country are owned by persons who reside in Europe, and are under the charge of attorneys. These attorneys, it is to be supposed, have their instructions from their constituents, by whom any interference with the acts of their representatives would not be looked upon with much complacency. I can only, then, speak of these rules as applied to my own estate.

The first of them on which his Excellency has animadverted is necessary, on account of the irregular hours at which the labourers turn out to work. The arrangements of the manager for the systematic conduct of an estate are thus liable to constant interruptions, and the cost of manufacture is enhanced by the waste of labour and of fuel consequent upon the operations not being carried on simultaneously as heretofore: so far from such a rule divesting the labourer of the right to claim the value of his labour, it warns him beforehand of the terms of his engagement, and is calculated to prevent those heart-burnings and disputes which his Excellency is so anxious to avoid.

The next rule objected to by his Excellency, No. 9, has likewise been adopted to prevent disagreements between employer and labourer, and to obviate the necessity for frequent ejectments. It is not meant to establish a fine, but a remuneration to the proprietor for the use of his cottage on those days on which the labourer is absent from work. It was in operation on Plantation Lima for 18 months before Captain Allen's arrival in this district, and worked to the entire satisfaction of the labourers, as well as to my own; the result of it was that the number of labourers in the field was double what it had been previously; the industrious and well-disposed labourers approved of it, and even wished the amount of the payment to be increased as a punishment to the idle and dissipated. The injury that is done by the indiscriminate permission to keep hogs upon an estate, which it is the object of rule No. 12 to prevent, is notorious to all who have lived in the country districts of the colony; even where they are penned up in the day, they are let loose at night to go into the cane pieces, and are so trained as to return to the pens at daylight. It is absolutely necessary that the managers of estates should have the power of putting an entire stop to this nuisance, even though the rule should not be carried into strict operation in the case of industrious and well-behaved labourers.

Since the 1st of August 1838, the labourers on Plantation Lima have been warned not to plant provisions, and have been told that if they left the estate, they would neither be permitted to reap, nor receive payment for any they might have planted.

This prohibition clearly does away with the idea of any "infringement of the rights of property" by the enforcement of rule No. 13. In open defiance of it, however, many of the labourers have planted provisions to such an extent that they have been able to sell to the amount of 12 dollars per week. Is it likely that any man who is permitted to occupy a house and to cultivate provision-grounds to an unlimited extent, rent free, will work regularly as a day labourer on an estate?

Having now explained the intention and the operation of the obnoxious rules, I trust sufficiently to show their reasonableness, and the necessity that existed for their institution, I proceed to consider the minute of his Excellency upon them to the Attorney and Solicitor-general, in which I observe with surprise that his Excellency imputes to the planters the intention of committing acts of illegality. This is a construction which the rules themselves will not bear out, and which would never have presented itself to one disposed to take a candid and impartial view of them. His Excellency assumes that the employer makes it compulsory on the labourer to adopt these rules, whereas the very object of putting them into a printed form, and promulgating them before they were intended to come into operation, was to afford the labourers the option of accepting or rejecting them; but they are to be looked upon as a whole, and the labourer is not left at liberty to avail himself of those that are in his favour, and to reject those that he dislikes: moreover, it is a doctrine unheard of in any country with which I am acquainted, that the employer should be debarred from regulating the hours of labour, and the duties of his servants; nor does there exist any law that I am aware of which is contravened by the application of this principle to day labourers in this country. I have attentively perused the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-general, and the Order in Council, and the Act of Parliament therein referred to, without being able to discover in what respect the rules objected to are contrary to law, and I am convinced that, had they been simply submitted to counsel for an opinion whether they are contrary to law or not, the reply would have been that they are not; in which assertion I am supported by legal advisers of equal experience and ability with the Attorney and Solicitor-general. The principal objection urged by these officers against the rules is, that they would

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supersede the functions of the stipendiary magistrates. If such should prove the result of their operation, it would be hailed by the whole community as an inestimable benefit to the country, for it is to the perpetual interference and course of partiality of the stipendiaries that we are chiefly indebted for the existing disagreements and want of confidence between employer and labourer.

In reply to that part of your letter which relates to the proceedings of a meeting held at Capoey Barracks on the 28th of December, I have only to state that I was not present at the meeting, nor was I informed of anything that took place at it until I received your letter.

As his Excellency appears to place some importance upon my opinion, I request that, if he should have forwarded your letter to the Secretary of State, he will likewise forward this reply for his Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c.

(signed) *Peter Rose.*

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

(2.)

Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 1 February 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of two communications from you, both dated yesterday.

These communications will be transmitted to the Secretary of State, for his Lordship's information; and a copy of that which relates to the African labourers will be forwarded to Captain Allen for his guidance.

The view which his Excellency's minute took of the new rules and regulations at the time of their transmission to the Attorney and Solicitor-general for opinion, has been fully borne out. Those officers reported some of them to be illegal; and there is every reason to believe that the whole of them, excepting only such as relate to a reduction of wages, have been deemed, subsequently to their publication, and after an experience of the effect they have produced on the minds of the labourers, impracticable, and consequently were impolitic in their origin. As it has been his Excellency's duty to forward to the Secretary of State, and through the Emigration Agent General to the various ports from whence emigrants might be expected, copies of the said new rules and regulations, it would be very desirable now to transmit an announcement that the said rules and regulations, except so far as they relate to a reduction of wages, have been withdrawn and cancelled.

An announcement of this kind, in as authentic and public a shape as was the publication of the new rules, would be useful to the cause of emigration, which must suffer in proportion to the number and value of the allowances which the new rules profess to abolish.

The Governor merely suggests this, and does not in any manner intend to interfere with the unquestionable right of yourself and other proprietors to make your own arrangements as to the wages and allowances which are to be given to your labourers.

A sincere desire to maintain harmony between the proprietary body and their labourers, and a wish that Guiana should continue to be attractive to emigrants, induced the Governor to suggest that your influence should be used to obtain the public cancelment of rules, of which some were pronounced by the colonial law officers of the Crown to be illegal, and of which the majority of the others are now practically discarded.

The Governor regrets to learn from your reply that the exercise of your influence for such a purpose would not be received with complacency.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Peter Rose, &c. &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,* Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

— No. 14. —

No. 14. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 5 February 1842.

(No. 37.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

1. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. 7.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 5 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to your Lordship a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Sandbach; copies of correspondence between that gentleman and the Government Secretary; with copy of letter from Stipendiary Magistrate Mure to the latter, in answer to a charge contained in Mr. Sandbach's first letter to me.

Mr.

Mr. Sandbach's first letter details what he considers the cause of the cessation of labour on the estates of which he is either proprietor or attorney; and contains a charge against Mr. Mure, as encouraging the labourers to abstain from work.

This grave charge is satisfactorily refuted by Mr. Mure.

It is the same sort of charge that has been circulated against myself, for not giving encouragement to unlawful measures.

The answer to Mr. Sandbach's letter by the Government Secretary will, I trust, be approved of by your Lordship.

Mr. Sandbach's reply was accompanied by a copy of the "Rules and Regulations" intended for the estates of which he had charge, to which an answer was given. 3.

In another letter I was requested by Mr. Sandbach to say whether I intended visiting his estates. 8.

I declined doing so, for reasons stated in the first letter written to Mr. Sandbach and in Mr. Young's last letter. 4.

It also appeared to me that an interference between Mr. Sandbach and his labourers on the present occasion, as requested by him, might tend to weaken the confidence which the lower orders in this colony have invariably of late years placed in the executive.

That interference has been of late years exclusively confined to the announcement of successive ameliorations of their condition, to the giving advice calculated to promote their interests, advance their civilization, and keep them from harm; hence has not only been preserved, without violence, the ordinary loyalty which is due to a government, but there has been generated a warmer feeling of gratitude and trust, which it is most desirable for the peace of the country should continue unimpaired.

To threaten, to remonstrate, or even to advise labourers to acquiesce in rules pronounced illegal by the law officers, and which, even if legal, are of unusual stringency, would be the first step towards ranging the people against, instead of keeping them on the side of the government.

Whenever I could fairly assist in bringing about a mutual agreement, I have done so, and went willingly to Plantation Greenfield, and another estate on the East Sea Coast, Demerara, where reasonable cause was shown for my interference.

In my despatch, No. 30, of the 2d February (page 677), I had the honour of alluding to proposals made by the manager, or, as I have since learned, the attorney, of La Bonne Mère Plantation, on the Troharien Creek, and stated that I considered them reasonable.

On the 3d instant I learned from Captain Ball, stipendiary magistrate of the district, that the labourers of the estate in question had not turned out to their work, and still held out on account of the punts, though on measurement they were not found beyond the usual size, and several of them much less than 500 cubic feet, the ordinary measurement.

This being a case in which I considered myself justified to become a mediator, I proceeded yesterday to the estate, 28 miles from Georgetown, without application from the attorney.

I found about 100 men and women on the estate; the rest were at work on a neighbouring estate, where the proprietor had wisely rejected the "Rules and Regulations."

I had some difficulty in explaining to the people that the offers made to them proved that the "Rules and Regulations" were repudiated; that the offers were higher even than on several estates on which labour had never ceased; that they were good and reasonable offers; that the labourers were injuring themselves and their masters by holding out; that it was unjust to give their labour to another estate, and occupy the cottages belonging to the estate on which they did not bestow their labour.

The size of the punts seemed to be the great obstacle to immediate accommodation. Previous to the "strike" they had received a dollar and a half for the same work, and for this they held out.

I reasoned with the people for a long time, and there was a disposition to agreement to the terms; except on the part of four or five, who said they would quit the estate. I, however, left it with a tolerable prospect of finding that my mediation would be attended with good results, and returned to Georgetown.

These "Rules and Regulations" have so confounded the labourers, that it is difficult to persuade them that the rules, &c. were not a prelude to greater encroachments on their liberty. Every variety of interpretation has been put on them, according to the proportionate intelligence of the parties, the least enlightened ascribing to them a return to slavery.

The condition of the persons concerned in the management of estates on the East Sea Coast, Demerara, is rendered much more dependent on their good understanding with the labourers, from the numerous free settlements and purchases of estates by labourers on that coast.

These settlements and estates offer at the present moment a home and employment to their comrades; and the inexhaustible supply of fish from the sea, from the trenches, creeks, and bushwater, assists their subsistence.

It behoved the employers, therefore, to weigh well their measures, before they risked the loss of the confidence of those on whom they were to depend for the cultivation of their estates.

I am in great hopes, however, that as several estates have resumed work, and that more

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are daily giving promise of reconciliation, that the natural attachments to locality will soon produce a resumption of the ordinary industry, even on the coast I have alluded to.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 14.

(No. 1.)

Sir, Georgetown, 25 January 1842.

Encl. in No. 14.

I TAKE the liberty of addressing your Excellency in consequence of the total cessation of labour upon all the estates with which I am connected.

Your Excellency is aware that early in November last a public meeting was held, on account of the alarming excess of the expenditure of sugar estates over their production.

After that meeting, I, in common with the representatives of almost every estate in Demerara and Essequibo, adopted certain rules for the management of my estates, which appeared to me calculated to reduce the cost of production within limits that would afford some remuneration for the expense of carrying them on. These measures were intended to come into operation on the 1st of January, and I visited each of my estates during the last week in December, for the purpose of announcing and explaining them to the labourers beforehand.

They asked me whether these rules were laws of the Queen or of your Excellency; and, on my saying that they were my own, they distinctly declared that they would not submit to any change unless advised to do so by your Excellency. Under the impression that, if left to themselves, their excitement would soon pass away, and that on reflection they would see the propriety of resuming work, I returned to town. I have, however, been entirely disappointed in my expectations, for no work has been done on any of my coast estates since the beginning of the year; but the labourers have continued to occupy the houses and live upon the produce of the provision grounds on the estates, for the use of which their labour was my only remuneration; and they are, whether truly or falsely, under the impression that they have a right to occupy the houses, and that your Excellency approves of their proceedings. Their continued absence from work must be attributed, in a great measure, if not wholly, to the stipendiary magistrate of the district, Mr. Mure, who advised them not to work under the new regulations.

Under these circumstances, feeling the perfect conviction that they would cheerfully resume labour, if recommended by your Excellency to do so, I can no longer refrain from requesting that your Excellency will do me the favour to visit my estates, for the purpose of explaining to the labourers that it is their own interest to return to work; that the alterations adopted in the mode of conducting the estates have been forced upon me by necessity; and that, having now had ample time for deliberation, they are bound either to resume work or at once to quit the houses which they have been allowed to occupy without in any way remunerating the proprietors of them. I should be unwilling to trespass on your Excellency's time, did I not feel certain that upon your Excellency depends the question, whether the labourers are to return to work without our being compelled to continue the system, the ruinous effect of which appeared so plainly last year, or are to sit down idle until the cultivation of the county is utterly destroyed.

I have, &c.

To His Excellency Henry Light, Esq. (signed) *W. R. Sandbach,*
&c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(No. 2.)

(Copy.)

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 26 January 1842.

I AM desired by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date.

That part of your communication which alleges the continued absence of labourers from work to be attributable wholly or in part to the advice of Mr. Mure, the stipendiary magistrate, will be referred to that officer for report.

His Excellency has already most fully explained to the labourers that it is not in his power in any way to interfere in the rate of wages to be paid for labour, and that if they cannot agree with their employers, they must leave the estates, as they have no right to occupy cottages and provision-grounds belonging to the proprietor of the estate whilst the estate's work is left undone.

His

His Excellency yesterday visited two estates on the East Coast, and expressed himself to the above effect; and, as the address then made to the labourers will be printed and circulated, there will be still less chance than ever of the labourers being supposed to be ignorant of such obvious truths.

As your communication appears to confine the difference between yourself and your labourers to the mere question of a reduction of wages, his Excellency would be glad to be informed, before taking into consideration the expediency of visiting your estates, whether the new rules and regulations (except as regards the reduced wages) have been withdrawn, and the people apprised of the withdrawal.

I have, &c.

W. R. Sandbach, Esq. (signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
&c. &c. Government Secretary.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(No. 3.)

Sir, Georgetown, 26 January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, in reply to my letter of yesterday's date, addressed to his Excellency the Governor.

As his Excellency has desired to be informed how far the rules alluded to in my letter are considered as still in force on my estates, I take the liberty of enclosing herewith a copy of those rules, as delivered by me to the people, and as they still remain. It cannot but be obvious that their effect could only be felt as an inconvenience by idle and irregular labourers, who have hitherto been placed precisely on the same footing as the industrious; while, by creating a distinction, they would encourage the latter, upon whom, in practice, very few of them would come into operation at all.

I shall be happy to afford any explanation, either of the rules themselves, or of their practical operation, that his Excellency may desire.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, (signed) *W. R. Sandbach.*
&c. &c.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(No. 4.)

(Copy.)

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 27 January 1842.

I AM desired by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, forwarding a printed copy of the Rules and Regulations as delivered by you to the labourers on your estate, and which still remain in existence.

It does not appear to his Excellency necessary to enter into any discussion respecting them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

(No. 5.)

Sir, Georgetown, 27 January 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this day's date. I shall feel obliged if you will do me the favour to inform me whether it is the intention of his Excellency the Governor to comply with my request that he would visit my estates.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, (signed) *Wm. R. Sandbach.*
&c. &c.

(No. 6.)

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, Demerara, 28 January 1842.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt to-day of your letter of yesterday's date.

In reply, I am directed to observe, that as the object you have in view in requesting his Excellency to visit your estates is "for the purpose of explaining to the labourers that it is their own interest to return to work, and that they are bound either to resume work or at once to quit the houses which they have been allowed to occupy," this object can be attained by a reference to the stipendiary magistrate, who will, on your application, visit your several

estates, and explain to the labourers the rights of their employer, as proprietor of the land and buildings of the estate on which they reside, and advise them to work. His Excellency does not at present deem it advisable personally to visit your estates.

I have, &c.

Wm. R. Sandbach, Esq. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(No. 7.)

Sir, William House, 31 January 1842.

I RETURN the letter from Mr. Sandbach transmitted by the Governor's order for my perusal, and have the honour to report that Mr. Sandbach is mistaken in supposing that I have advised the labourers on his estates, or any labourers in my district, "not to work under the new regulations."

Since the publication of the "Rules and Regulations," I am not aware that I have given advice, or expressed an opinion respecting them, to any labourer on any of the estates with which Mr. Sandbach is connected.

On other estates I have spoken to large bodies of labourers, and have informed them of the opinion of the Attorney-general and Solicitor-general that some of the printed rules are illegal, and that none of these rules can be binding on them, or be enforced without their consent to them. At Plantation Uitolugt (I introduce the name of that estate because I have some reason to believe that it was there I was supposed to have given the advice attributed to me by Mr. Sandbach), I also told the labourers that I believed that the gentlemen who framed the rules and regulations had not correctly expressed their meaning. For instance, I understood that they did not mean by the first rule that every labourer who went to work after eight in the morning would be permitted to perform his task, then be refused payment of wages, and further be required to pay a penalty of two bitts! though such was the natural inference from the words used; but that I had been told by gentlemen who had adopted the rule that they only meant that persons going to the field after eight might be refused employment, and after such refusal would not be paid for any work they might then persist in performing. I told them, however, that the rules were not binding on them without their own assent, and that there were some which I would not advise them to assent to; that as to wages I could not interfere, but I strongly recommended them to go to work, as the work the manager proposed to give them for the next three or four months had never been paid for on that estate at a higher rate than was still offered; and that when they came to cane-cutting, the wages for which were alone proposed to be reduced, they might make an arrangement with their employer, or seek employment elsewhere.

So far from advising the labourers "not to work," I have given the contrary advice; but I have advised (and considered it to be my duty to do so) all the labourers to whom I have spoken not to give their assent to such of the rules as have been declared by the law officers of the Crown to be illegal. I am surprised that their continued absence from labour should have been attributed to me. Mr. Sandbach seems to be aware that the *strike* (as it has been familiarly called) was occasioned by the simultaneous reduction of wages and publication of unpopular rules. Has it never occurred to Mr. Sandbach that the grounds of dissatisfaction remain unmitigated, and that "continued absence from work," arising from the same causes, prevails in other districts, to which advice from me could not have extended? Before Mr. Sandbach's letter was written he was well aware that I had recommended to some representatives of estates a modification of the rules, omitting all that were illegal, but retaining the substance of the others—indeed, retaining all that was generally considered essential—and that I was willing to advise the labourers to give assent to rules so modified. I have never denied the right of a proprietor to make rules, consistent with law, for the regulation of work on his estate, though I may doubt the policy of introducing such rules at the same moment that he announces to his labourers the disagreeable intelligence of his intention to reduce their wages. Mr. Sandbach cannot be ignorant of the fact that the rules which he and others wished to establish were extremely unpopular; and these, accompanied by a reduction of wages, were the causes not only of the "strike," but of the "continued absence from work" on the part of the labourers.

I have, &c.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young, &c. &c.

(signed) *J. O. Lockhart Mure,* S. J. P. District (E.)

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

(No. 8.)

RULES and REGULATIONS for the Employment of Labourers on Plantation ——— West Coast, Demerara, from and after the 1st of January 1842.

Vide Enclosure (A.) in Governor Light's Despatch, 6th January 1842.

These rules and regulations are similar to those enclosed in Governor Light's despatch, 6th January 1842, page 643, with the exception of rules 14 and 15, which are as follows:

14. Hogs, pigs, &c. found running loose upon the estate will be destroyed, to whomsoever they may belong, and any one who pleases is at liberty to destroy them. Horses, mules, cattle, goats, &c. found straying on the estate will be impounded.

15. Each labourer upon this estate is required to contribute one day's wages in each lunar month, towards defraying the expense of hospital charges and medical attendance.

— No. 15. —

(No. 41.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 15.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
10 February 1842.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 10 February 1842.

IN my despatch, No. 4, date 6th January, I had the honour of forwarding a letter from Captain Allen, in which was a statement of expenses for cultivation of one acre of ground, to produce 1 ½ hogshead of sugar. This calculation has been brought to my notice by Mr. Pearson, who affirms that Captain Allen misunderstood him. The difference between Captain Allen's statement and Mr. Pearson's, which I have the honour to forward for the satisfaction of the latter, is, that Captain Allen has made the balance profit, instead of surplus, for repair of buildings and machinery, and interest on capital invested, which is shown at foot of second page of document now forwarded.

p. 698.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 15.

COPY of a MEMORANDUM forwarded by Captain *Allen*, made by Mr. *Pearson*, the Joint-proprietor of Plantation *Richmond*, viz.:

Encl. in No. 15.

Cultivation of One Acre of Canes:	Days of Labour.
Relieving and supplying	14
Three weedings	21
Cutting and punting to buildings	28
Boiling and fuel	24
Drainage	7
Extras	6
Total	100

Produce:

1 ½ hhd. of sugar, at 17 *l.* per hhd., exchange at *f.* 14		297 10
Molasses, 125 gallons, at 10 *s.*		62 10
		360 –
Weeding and keeping in order, &c. 100 days, as above, at 5 bits per day	*f.* 125 –	
Interest of capital, contingencies, buildings, and all other expenses	125 –	
		250 –
Profit on the Cultivation of One Acre of Canes	*f.*	110 –

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COPY of MEMORANDUM (as substituted for the preceding one by Mr. *Pearson*) taken by Captain *Allen*.

To keep in proper cultivation one acre of canes will require 100 days' labour, viz.:

	Days.
To relieve and supply after cutting	14
Three weedings	21
Cutting and punting to buildings	28
Boiling, procuring fuel, &c.	24
Keeping drainage and punt trenches free	7
Extra for supplying, &c. &c.	6
	100

Which ought to yield 1 ¼ hhd. of sugar, at 17 *l.* per hhd. ex. *f.* 14		297 10
Molasses, 125 gallons, at 10 *s.*		62 10
		360 –
Weeding and keeping in order	*f.* 125 –	
Contingent expenses	125 –	
		250 –
Balance	*f.*	110 –

To keep buildings and machinery in order, and to pay interest on capital invested.

(signed) *Jno. Pearson.*

— No. 16. —

(No. 42.)

No. 16.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
11 February 1842.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*; dated Government House, Demerara, 11 February 1842.

I AM happy to announce to your Lordship that the labourers of Demerara and Essequibo have pretty generally resumed their ordinary agricultural occupations.

In the county of Berbice there has occurred no cessation whatever from work.

As the "strike" during the past month in Demerara and Essequibo was the first occurrence of the kind of which there had been any example in the colony, exaggerated apprehensions of the consequences were very generally entertained.

The time when no labourer could refuse to work without drawing down on himself severe and instant punishment, and when the whole civil and military force would have been promptly exerted to awe or compel obedience to the commands of the proprietary body, has too recently passed away to excite much surprise that the fears to which I have adverted should be entertained, and that the remedy for them should appear to many to be the employment of a similar compulsion to that which was efficacious in former days, although now necessarily proposed to be veiled under the outward forms of a legal process.

Feeling assured, however, that such a course would but create serious disaffections in the minds of the people, which it was intended to check, and occasion, perhaps, the overt acts of insubordination which all concurred in deprecating, I confess that, until the estates in these counties had renewed work, as now they generally have done, my mind was not without great anxiety.

* * * * * *

No. 4, 6th January.
No. 5, 7th January.
No. 9, 13th ditto.
No. 23, 26th ditto.
Nos. 30, 31, 32, 33, 2d February.
Nos. 34, 36, 37, 3d & 5th February.

I have, in the despatches enumerated in the margin, transmitted to your Lordship such communications as had reference to the "strike," not as being in themselves of much interest, under other circumstances, but as indicating, although but in an imperfect degree, the exaggerated character which was given to every petty charge against the labourers; the constant apprehension which prevailed that the civil power was insufficient, or would be resisted, and the idea that, notwithstanding the reduction of wages being unacceptable to the labourers, especially accompanied, as it was, with the sudden publication of very stringent regulations, by which they were deprived of very many of their accustomed privileges and allowances, it, nevertheless, only rested with the Governor, by his fiat, and without any mutual compromise between the labourer and his master, to pronounce the new "rules and regulations" valid, and to secure to them the acquiescence of the labourers.

I deem it a fortunate circumstance that, immediately on the publication of the new "rules and regulations," deputations of labourers from so many estates in all parts of Demerara and Essequibo resorted to me.

The

The advice then given to them, and the explanation of the master's rights of property, were thus more quickly, extensively, and satisfactorily diffused than could have been the case by a proclamation, the publication and reading of which must have been entrusted to the slow progress of a circulation amongst the magistrates and police.

The addresses personally delivered at Plantation Greenfield on the east sea coast, Demerara, and at Plantation Hague, on the west coast of the same county, made also a useful impression on the minds of the labourers, although I really felt, when acquainted with the details of the case which took me to the Hague, that the strong language I used was requisite more *in terrorem*, than it was justified by the facts of the particular subject on which I had to comment, and which proved to be threats only, not violence.

In conclusion, I must express my utmost satisfaction that, by a pretty general resumption of the ordinary industry of the people, a very anxious period has been brought to a close; and that, notwithstanding many specious inducements to make a display of extraordinary force, the peace of the country has been uninterruptedly maintained by the ordinary means; and thus, as I fervently hope and believe, the relations between employers and employed are at the present moment infinitely less disturbed, and more likely to be quickly restored to harmony, than could have otherwise been the case.

—No. 17.—

(No. 43.)

No. 17.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
16 February 1842.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*; dated Government House, Demerara, 16 February 1842.

(A.)

I HAVE the honour of forwarding to your Lordship, at the request of Mr. Rose, a copy of a letter addressed to the Government Secretary, in reply to one which, by my desire, was written to Mr. Rose in acknowledgment of a previous communication.

Copies of the former correspondence have been forwarded in my despatch (No. 36), date 3d of February.

It did not appear to me that any advantage was to be gained to the public service by continuing a discussion with Mr. Peter Rose, in which there seemed but little probability that either the exposition of the law, by competent professional advisers, or the views and persuasions of the executive, could effect any change in his opinions, although I trust these may be yet modified in their practical operation by the opinion of the law officers, and by my own expressed sentiments.

I have only to regret that the result of Mr. Rose's inquiries should lead him to suppose that not more than 20 sugar estates in the counties of Demerara and Essequibo have deviated from "Rules and Regulations," of which the complaints from the labourers were almost universal, and respecting which the constituted authorities (to whom Mr. Rose, in common with persons in his local station, should set an example of deference) have pronounced so unfavourable an opinion.

Mr. Rose's assertion, that the "Rules and Regulations" have been abandoned only in the case of some few estates, is not, however, reconcileable with the information which I have received repeatedly from various quarters, including very many of the individuals who themselves at first published the rules. All declare that the reduction of wages was the main point, and that the other regulations were never intended to be insisted on, and are no more thought of.

With regard to wages, I have ever scrupulously avoided interfering; the legality of a reduction of wages is, of course, undoubted; but its policy has been questioned by many, who thought any retrenchment more advisable and more feasible than that which was proposed to be effected by lowering wages in a colony like this, where the necessaries of life, whether indigenous or imported, are only procurable at a high cost, and where the demand for labour is so urgent. I believe there are several instances in which the resumption of labour has been brought about only by either lessening the ordinary task-work, or by the issue of gratuities, or by giving the old rates of wages. For my own part, however, any opinion on the subject of wages which has been extracted from me, as in the address to the labourers at Plantation Greenfield, has had for its object to reconcile the labourer to the reduction of wages which his employer stated to be necessary.

(B.)

I confess myself at a loss to perceive in what respect there exists any variance between the reasons assigned, at my desire, in the government secretary's letter of the 3d of January, for my wish that the "rules and regulations" should be withdrawn, and the statements contained in the subsequent letter of the 1st of February, that it would be advisable to announce what I imagined, and still do imagine, to be the fact, of the very general practical withdrawal of the "rules and regulations."

From the information I had received, it appeared that the rules and regulations (excepting an adherence, nominal or real, to the regulation by which a reduction of wages was established) were practically disowned; as, therefore, an abandonment seemed to have occurred of rules contrary to law, and unacceptable to the labourers, I can discover no discrepancy with the views which I had previously expressed, in intimating a desire that the same authenticity should be given to the renunciation of the rules and regulations as had attended their startling promulgation.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

With respect to the rules and regulations affecting emigrants alone, it is only necessary to say, that no such restricted application of their stringent provisions is either expressed or implied in their purport; and the early transmission of them, therefore, to all places from whence emigrants might be expected, appeared to me to be not only an act of simple justice to intending emigrants of the labouring class, but, moreover, the clear and imperative requirement of a public duty imposed on me by your Lordship's circular despatch of the 29th of November last.

"That the falling off in the exports, and the loss which the labourers have sustained by remaining idle for a whole month," should be made a charge against the chief executive, is only in keeping with at least the momentary fate which may befal colonial as well as military governors in the present, as it did in the olden, time, when "adverse events are ascribed to one alone, prosperous ones are claimed by all."

Mr. Rose has, however, been pleased to say, that the course adopted by me, at the end of January, would, if it had been adopted at the beginning of that month, have prevented the losses to which he makes allusion. My despatch of the 11th of February (No. 42) will have apprised your Lordship how extensively and satisfactorily the sentiments expressed at Plantation Greenfield, to which I conclude Mr. Rose refers, had been personally diffused among the frequent deputations of labourers who visited me on several occasions, at the Public Buildings, during the precise period of the month mentioned by Mr. Rose.

I may also remark, that experience seems to indicate that no official explanation was necessary to the labourers of the impossibility of their retaining their cottages when not working for the estates, inasmuch as no labourer has dreamed of setting up a proprietary claim to the estate's cottage, nor has any ejectment, seriously contemplated, failed to be effected; and this, too, by the planter's own means, without recourse to either the delays of any legal process, or to the actual employment of physical force. If, however, it should still be considered that official explanation on this point was necessary, it ought certainly to be admitted that it was given in proper time, since every real desire to dispossess a labourer of his cottage has been crowned with peaceful success.

(C.) (C.) (C.)

I enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the letter of the Government Secretary, which referred to the stipendiary magistrate the case mentioned by Mr. Rose, as an instance in which a manager was fined for legally ejecting labourers; of the report of the magistrate thereon; of the petition of the manager who was fined, and of my minute on his petition. As these documents speak for themselves, I forbear all comment.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that whether the incompatibility of the new "rules and regulations" with the Orders in Council, and existing laws of the colony, can or cannot be inferred from the circular to the stipendiary magistrates of the 31st of December 1841, and that this incompatibility is only entertained by me after a suggestion from Captain Allen, is really a point wholly irrelevant to the merits or demerits of the rules in question * *

* * * * * * *

That the circular letter of the 31st of December 1841, should not contain any stronger opinion than it does of the hardship of the new rules and regulations, is to be accounted for satisfactorily, I trust, to your Lordship, by the recollection that at the time it was written the Attorney and Solicitor General had not put me in possession of their opinion, from which I learned that the rules were as contrary to law as I had judged them to be harsh and impolitic.

Enclosure in No. 17.

(Copy.)

Plantation Friendship, East Coast, Demerara,
12 February 1842.

Sir,

Encl. in No. 17.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, in which you are pleased to state that "the view which his Excellency's Minute took of the new rules and regulations at the time of their transmission to the Attorney and Solicitor General for opinion has been fully borne out;" that "those officers reported some of them to be illegal;" and that "there is every reason to believe that the whole of them, excepting only such as relate to a reduction of wages, have been deemed, subsequently to their publication, and after an experience of the effect they have produced on the minds of the labourers, impracticable, and consequently were impolitic in their origin."

I know not from whom his Excellency has received the information on which he founds these statements; but I believe, from inquiries that I have made, that so far from their being correct, not more than 20 sugar estates in the counties of Demerara and Essequibo have deviated from the rules and regulations laid down for the regulation of estates in the respective districts for which they were framed; and I have yet to learn that they have been found impracticable, and consequently were impolitic in their origin; on the contrary, if construed by the Executive in the spirit in which they were framed by the proprietary body, they will be found equitable and just, and fitted to cement a good understanding between the employer and employed: they can only affect disadvantageously the idle and worthless.

In your letter of the 3d of January, written by his Excellency's desire, the reason assigned for his Excellency's wish that the rules and regulations should be withdrawn is "to avoid the heartburnings which, to their great injury, might be otherwise occasioned in the minds of the labourers; and the further publicity to which, in a contrary event, his Excellency

Excellency would be compelled, for the protection of the labourers, to give to his opinions, and those of the law officers of the Crown, on the rules and regulations."

In your letter of the 1st instant you take a new ground, and state that "it would be very desirable now to transmit an announcement that the said rules and regulations, except so far as they relate to a reduction of wages, have been withdrawn and cancelled."

I therefore take it for granted that his Excellency has abandoned his first position, as experience has shown him that it is no longer tenable. Had his Excellency been in less haste in transmitting the rules and regulations, and waited until he had made himself acquainted with the working of them, and with their operation upon immigrants, he would have found it quite unnecessary to transmit to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or the emigration agents, the rules and regulations; and would simply have confined his remarks to the reduction of wages, which alone affects immigrants. It is clear that his Excellency, conscious of having thus committed an error, seeks to prevent its evil effects by inducing the planters to abandon the measures which they have deliberately taken for the general benefit of the country.

Having already stated that in my judgment the rules and regulations are equitable and just, and that the circumstances of the colony rendered their adoption absolutely necessary, it follows that I can be no party to their withdrawal and cancelment. The labourers on five estates under my charge are now at work under these rules; and I have no hesitation in stating it as my opinion, that if his Excellency had, in the early part of January, done that which he did at the end of that month, namely, stated to the labourers that they had no right to occupy cottages on an estate without working for that estate, and that he could not interfere with the rate of wages (instead of at once, without reflection, inquiry, or consideration, avowing an open hostility to the rules and regulations), the falling off in exports would have been prevented, and the loss which the labourers have sustained by remaining idle for a whole month would not have been incurred by them.

It, however, would appear that his Excellency's views have materially changed between the 31st of December 1841 and the last week in January 1842; as I find that in the circular to the stipendiary magistrates, under the first date, "his Excellency deems it necessary to remind those officers that no countenance whatever should be afforded on their part to the ejection of labourers from estates on the strength of an agreement which is implied to exist between the labourers and employers, on grounds so vague as those contained in the above-quoted rule."

A careful perusal of the rule alluded to would have shown that the rules and regulations were the terms offered by the employers as those on which they were willing to hire labourers, and that, if the labourers did not choose to accept the conditions, they were at liberty to carry their labour to a better market. The stipendiary magistrates have not only acted on his Excellency's suggestion, that "no countenance whatever should be afforded by them to the ejectment of labourers," but they have, without the authority of any law, fined managers for legally ejecting labourers; and, in one instance, seized the property of an individual against whom no charge had been made, in satisfaction of a fine so imposed upon a manager. It is, however, satisfactory that his Excellency at least admits that the labourers have no right to occupy the cottages of estates unless they work on them; and that he admits the unquestionable right of proprietors to make their own arrangements regarding the wages and allowances to be given to their labourers, to determine which arrangements was the object of those who framed the rules and regulations.

I conceive that I am fully justified in characterising his Excellency's hostility to the rules as hasty and inconsiderate; first, by the change which his Excellency's views have already undergone; and secondly, by the circular to stipendiary magistrates, dated the 31st of December 1841, which is quite general in its tenor, and does not allude to the rules as in any way inconsistent with law. Indeed his Excellency does not appear to have entertained the most remote idea that they were capable of bearing such a construction, until it was suggested by Captain Allen that rules 1, 9, 12, and 13, contemplated the commission of illegal acts.

I have respectfully to request that this my answer to your letter of the 1st instant may be transmitted to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Peter Rose.*

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

The GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS to the Labourers at Plantation *Greenfield.*

My good Friends,

HAVING heard that during the whole of the present month but a very small number of you have been at work, and these were strangers as compared with the old people of the estate, I have come here this morning to give you my opinions and advice.

I know you will take what I say in good part; and I hope you will have the good sense to follow my advice.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

I understand that, like most of the labourers on this coast, you got frightened at some new rules and regulations which were put on a printed paper, and shown to the people on various estates.

You thought it was a new law, a hard law; and one that would make you as badly off as in the slave time.

Now, in the first place, I must tell you that the people took some very foolish notions into their head respecting these papers.

Some said the papers ordered you to work from sunrise to sunset for two bitts; some said you were to work for three bitts, and pay for a doctor and house-rent besides.

Many labourers came to me, and I told them, in answer to their questions, that this paper which had made them come to me was not the Queen's law, nor the Governor's law, nor any law at all; that they made a mistake in thinking they were required to work all day long for two bitts or three bitts; that some of the rules in the paper were contrary to law, and that, if they did not choose to agree to the rules, they were not binding on them.

With respect to wages, I told them the same thing as I did in my proclamation in 1838, when I went round to all the estates to tell them that there was no more apprenticeship; I told them that I could not interfere with wages; the Queen herself could not interfere with wages; that the master could not be forced to give high wages; and the labourer could not be forced to take low wages; that master and labourer must agree amongst themselves as to wages; a shopkeeper could not be forced to sell a hat, or a coat, or a bottle of porter, or a ham, to a labourer at a low price; nor could a labourer be forced to pay a high price. They must agree together about the price; and if they could not agree, then they must separate.

I told them also, as I now tell you, that if they could not agree with their masters as to the price of work, they must separate and leave the estate.

The land and the cottage do not belong to the labourer. They belong to the master. The law protects all alike. There is protection for the person and the property of the labourer. There is the same protection for the person and property of the master. If the labourer and the master cannot agree, the labourer cannot keep the master's land and cottage.

The law is, that the labourer who does not agree to his master's terms must give up his land and cottage.

This is the law of property, which everybody must obey; high and low, rich and poor, master and labourer.

My duty is to see that everybody obeys the law; and this is the duty the Queen has given me to perform, and it shall be performed.

What is your property no man shall take or injure; no man shall live in a labourer's house, no man shall live on a labourer's land, without the labourer's permission. Nor shall any labourer take or injure his master's property, nor live in his master's house, nor on his master's land, without his master's permission.

There is the same law for the master as for the labourer.

This is what I told the labourers who came to speak to me about the new rules and regulations, and the price of work.

I expected to hear that before this the labourers and their masters would come to some agreement, and that all would go on with good will, and return to work.

At Greenfield I expected this to happen first.

You have got a good master; Greenfield has been, until now, an example to other estates, both for a good master and good labourers; you have always had a good character. I am very sorry; I am very much disappointed to find that nearly four weeks have passed away, and still you are not at your work. How is this? You will tell me because your wages are lowered. But you should remember that the price of your master's sugar is lowered; and last year there were not so many hogsheads of sugar made as before. Now it is not your fault that the price of sugar is lower, and it may not have been your fault that so much sugar was not made last year as the year before; but if this is not your fault, it is your good master's misfortune, and, as reasonable people, you should consider this. If you have a small plantain-walk, and you give a man six bits to weed it, and plant it, and keep it in order, and you get 100 bunches of plantains, and you sell them for a guilder or six bits a bunch during one year, and the next year the plantain-walk gives 60 bunches, and the plantains sell for three bits a bunch instead of a guilder or six bits, do you think you could afford to pay the same wages to the man who worked in the plantain-walk as when the plantains sold for a good price? You know very well you could not.

But let me tell you more; your good master says he will give you a guilder for a task, and I hear you refuse to work for this. Now, you have not yet tried what the task is. I am sure the task which would be given to you would be according to the state of the ground; and I must tell you that, a week or two ago, on one of your master's other estates, the whole gang worked 12 days' task-work in seven days, and that, except at Greenfield, all your master's people turn out well. You will be treated in the same way, and therefore you ought to do the same. No man at Greenfield can say that the doctor does not visit the estate as before, and that he is not paid by your master; no man at Greenfield can say that he has been made to pay two bits for his house when he did not work; no man can say that if he keeps his hog in a pen it has been killed.

I shall now only say, that I expect the Greenfield people to show a good example, as they have formerly done—return to their work; and be assured you will get fair play and good treatment from your master, if you behave as good labourers ought to do. I look to you to

set

set a good example to this coast; and if any other labourers, more foolish than you, should punish themselves and injure their master's property by not working, and threaten you because, like reasonable and sensible people, you mean to turn out and do your work, I must warn them that a threat to prevent a man working is an offence against the law, and will be severely punished, and I have already given orders to the magistrates to do so.

Once more, let me remind you, that you cannot live on this estate, which is your master's property, unless you work. I hope you will not force me to have a bad opinion of you, but that, as I said before, having a good master, you will act as good servants. Go to your work, and be what you have been before—an example to the whole coast, and make me speak well of you to the Queen.

British Guiana, 25 January 1842. (signed) *Henry Light.*

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, 5 January 1842.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you, that the enclosed paper was handed to his Excellency this morning by the bearer, who also made the following verbal statement: That the manager called up the labourers of the estate, read to them certain rules and regulations, from which he, in common with others, expressed his dissent: that on Monday he was ordered by the manager to work; he stated that he could not work on the terms prescribed by the regulations: that immediately thereupon the manager ordered his property to be thrown out of the house allotted to him as a labourer: that this was done, and much of it destroyed.

His Excellency desires that you will most fully investigate this case, and award such compensation to the labourer for this improper conduct of the employer as the evidence may justify.

This letter and enclosure have been perused by the Attorney and Solicitor-general, who entertain no doubt of your jurisdiction in the case as here stated.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. E. F. Young*, Government Secretary.

P.S.—Since closing this letter another labourer, of the name of Jacob Cuffy, has appeared with a similar complaint; and with the addition that the harsh treatment took place whilst his wife was lying in the house ill of small-pox.

Captain Coleman, &c. &c. (signed) *H. Y.*

Sir, Government Secretary's Office, 6 January 1842.

THE bearer, Jacob William, of Plantation Henry, states to the Governor that, during his absence from the house allotted to him at Plantation Henry, and because he would not conform to the new rules and regulations, Mr. Roach, the manager, threw all his property on the dam, and nailed up the door of his house.

He states that half of his property is destroyed, and claims compensation. His Excellency refers the case to you for adjudication and report.

I have, &c.
Captain Coleman, &c. &c. (signed) *H. E. F. Young*,
Government Secretary.

To his Excellency *Henry Light*, Esq. Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of *British Guiana*, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c.

The humble Petition of *W. C. Roach*,

Respectfully showeth,

THAT your petitioner has to complain of three several sentences pronounced by the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Thomas Coleman, in certain proceedings in which your petitioner was defendant, as manager of Plantation Henry.

The first of these cases was one which was tried before Mr. Coleman on Saturday, the 8th of January, at the instance of one Henry Paul, a labourer on Plantation Henry, who represented that he had been summarily ejected, that his effects had been thrown on the dam, that various articles belonging to him had been damaged and broken, and that he had been ill-used by your petitioner.

Your petitioner admitted that he had given an order of ejectment, but the complainant's evidence failed in proving any degree of ill-usage on your petitioner's part, while it completely negatived the allegation that articles were broken or damaged, and went to show that they were not thrown upon the dam, but merely removed into the gallery of the house, and under the same roof, and that too by the wife of the complainant himself (aided by her uncle); so that if any damage had been done, which was not the case, your petitioner could not have been made answerable.

Your petitioner then tendered evidence to the following effect:—

That the complainant had, on the Sunday previous, disturbed the people while engaged in their religious duties at the meeting-house on the estate, by going there in a state of intoxication, and, during the performance of Divine service, standing up and exclaiming, " We will not agree to any rules or regulations; we will not be made slaves of; it is not the Queen's law, or the Governor's law."

Further, your petitioner offered to prove that this Henry Paul was a notorious bad and determined character, had been several times discharged from the estate, and was lately received back, upon being liberated from the gaol of Georgetown, on the express condition that he should conduct himself peaceably and with sobriety (for which he brought securities), failing which, he was to be summarily ejected.

That that morning he had refused to work on the estate any longer, upon which, having told him to remove his things, your petitioner was assailed by him and his wife in very coarse, obscene, and abusive language; and that, although an order of ejectment was given, it was not enforced, as the articles which had been removed to the gallery were afterwards allowed to be taken back, and the complainant to remain on the premises. All these circumstances were urged by your petitioner in justification of his conduct, but the magistrate refused to allow any evidence to be heard with respect to them, observing that they were irrelevant; that the question was simply whether or not your petitioner had given an order to eject this person without allowing him seven days' notice.

Your petitioner having expressed a wish to know upon what authority he was bound to give seven days' notice, Mr. Coleman remarked, that, although there was no law in the colony to that effect, the law of reason would dictate it; and he concluded by imposing upon your petitioner a fine of 2*l.*

The next case was at the instance of Jacob Cuffy, another labourer of the same plantation, who complained of summary ejectment and ill-usage, especially while his wife was ill of small-pox.

Here the order of ejectment was admitted.

That his wife was ill of the small-pox at the time was denied, and completely disproved.

The plea of justification on the part of your petitioner, which was disregarded by Mr. Coleman, like the former, was, that the man had on the evening of the 3d of January come upon the estate with a paper in his hand, which he falsely described to the people of the estate as being a proclamation by your Excellency, and, pretending to read from it, set forth its contents to be, that your Excellency disapproved of the rules and regulations of the estate, and that those who complied with them would be made slaves of; and that upon these pretexts he had gone round among the people and incited them to strike work, while at the same time he was intimidating them from carrying on their labours by telling them that the Houston's labourers would come on the estate and beat all that attempted to work.

That your petitioner then went to his house and told him that if he did not intend to work he should leave the estate; when his reply was, " If any man touch my articles he will see martial-law work pass here;" besides which he used many threats, and much abusive language. That part of his things were thereupon put out of the house, but the bedstead and bedding were allowed to remain, and the door left open. That he himself and wife went to town, and on their return took possession of the house, in which they were allowed to remain.

In this case Mr. Coleman fined your petitioner 3*l.*

The third instance which your petitioner would bring under the notice of your Excellency is that of Sophia Belfast, also a labourer on Plantation Henry, who in similar terms complained of your petitioner using summary ejectment and ill-usage towards her.

Here it was proved by your petitioner that when Henry Paul's things were removed to the gallery of his house, she interfered in the most violent manner; and as she had refused to perform work for some days previous, your petitioner gave her 24 hours' notice to quit, and, after that period had elapsed, demanded of her whether she would go to work or leave the estate, when she began to use towards your petitioner the most abusive and disgraceful language, and threatened, if her things were put out of the house, that she would break open the door and enter in again. Your petitioner then ordered her things to be put into the gallery of her house, which was done; but when your petitioner went away she put her threats into execution, broke the lock of the door, and retook possession of the house.

In this instance your petitioner was fined 1*l.*

The above circumstances are respectfully submitted to your Excellency (under correction of Mr. Coleman's notes, to which your petitioner has not had access); and if, as humbly appears to your petitioner, it should be the opinion of your Excellency that your petitioner has not in these cases deviated from the strict line of his duty, in a matter in which the right of the proprietors to give orders for the ejectment of these parties has been distinctly recognised by the law officers of the Crown in this colony, in an opinion of theirs as published in the Gazette for general information, and where no period of legal notice has been fixed by law; that his conduct has not been chargeable with any impropriety, want of temper, moderation, or discretion, upon these occasions, when obliged, in obedience to the instructions of his employers, to perform any difficult and trying duty; while, on the other hand, the behaviour of the parties, in the abusive and threatening language which they used, and their insidious attempts to intimidate and prevent their fellow-labourers from working, were such as ought to have drawn down upon them the punishment of the law, your Excellency will not hesitate, I feel assured, to give orders that the whole of the fines in these cases (which the magistrate ordered to be paid to the several complainants, thereby awarding to them a premium for their misconduct, and affording to them a direct encouragement to acts of dis-

obedience

obedience and insubordination to their employers in future) shall be remitted; and, in making this request, it is proper to state that, since the said sentences were pronounced, an attempt has been made to enforce them, though not at the expense of your petitioner, by a proceeding which, he must be excused for remarking, appears, in point of legality and correctness, to be quite apiece with the judicial irregularities complained of; an erroneous levy having been made in satisfaction of those fines on the property of another party instead of your petitioner, which party is now proceeding to obtain redress by the only course which in these matters is open to him; to wit, an action of damages against the two officers of police by whom the levy was executed, whose circumstances, most probably, place them beyond the pale of all pecuniary responsibility.

Although, therefore, in consequence of these illegal proceedings, there is good reason to believe that the fines imposed are by this time in the pockets of the complainants, they may be called upon to refund the same, and a new distress warrant may be issued against your petitioner; from which circumstance it becomes necessary for your petitioner respectfully to request the interposition of your Excellency, humbly praying that your Excellency will be pleased, on his impartial view of the circumstances, to grant to your petitioner the fines above referred to.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) *W. C. Roach.*

(A true copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Referred to Captain Coleman, for report.

(By order.)

(signed) *H. E. F. Young*,
Government Secretary.

8 February 1842.

(A true copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Sir, Upper District (C.), 10 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the petition of W. C. Roach, late manager of Plantation Henry, and to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that during the whole of the investigation in the case of Henry Paul, Mr. Alexander Glenn (Mr. Roach's late employer) was present, and can affirm that I administered impartial justice.

In stating the conduct of Henry Paul on Sunday, the day before his ejectment, Mr. Roach omits to mention that the printed rules and regulations were on that afternoon promulgated to the people in the school-room, which is used, I understand, for public worship.

That when Mr. Roach appeared to answer the complaint of Jacob Cuffy, he offered, in my presence to compromise the matter by payment to him of 2*l.* sterling, the same sum as had been awarded to Henry Paul, but which Jacob Cuffy refused to accede to.

That the small compensation awarded to Sophia Belfast shows that I did take into consideration her misconduct, and her having received one day's notice to quit.

That with respect to irrelevant evidence, I beg to refer to my notes, to show that I did admit as much as I could with propriety, in justification, as Mr. Roach terms it, of his harsh treatment of the labourers; but Mr. Roach wished to put in proof that Henry Paul had some months before been in prison for theft, which I could not but consider irrelevant.

That with respect to the seven days' notice, I confess that, when asked my opinion, I said that it would be best to give a week's notice, to prevent the labourers from complaining that they had not sufficient time to look for other employment, and to remove their families and furniture.

I could add much more in justification of my conduct; but I trust his Excellency, on the perusal of my notes (which I herewith do myself the honour to enclose in their rough state, to prevent delay), will be satisfied that I have only discharged my duty towards the labourers placed under my special protection.

The petitioner, W. C. Roach, having applied to me for a copy of those notes, I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Attorney-general not to furnish him therewith.

With regard to the execution of the warrant of distress and sale, I respectfully submit that I am not responsible for any error the police officer may have committed: but I beg to add, that 14 dollars are in my hands, being part of the penalties not yet claimed, and, as the case has been brought before his Excellency the Governor, I await his Excellency's commands as to the application thereof.

I have, &c.

The Honourable H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(signed) *Thomas Coleman*, S.J.P.

Let the petitioner be informed that I see no reason for interfering with the sentence awarded by Captain Coleman.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Inform that magistrate that I am satisfied with his proceedings in these cases.

Let the question of the appropriation of the 14 dollars mentioned in Captain Coleman's letter be referred to the Attorney-general for report, and thereafter forward the report for Captain Coleman's guidance.

12 February. (signed) *Henry Light.*

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

— No. 18. —

(No. 49.)

No. 18. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 28 February 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 28 February 1842.

THOUGH my despatch (No. 42) dated 11th instant will have informed your Lordship of the very general resumption of the ordinary industry of the labourers, it will be satisfactory to be assured that nothing has occurred to prevent its continuance. Some changes of location have taken place from one estate to another; and consequently, where the place of the labourers has not been supplied on the estates they have left, those estates will have a partial cultivation, and suffer accordingly.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

— No. 19. —

No. 19. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 28 March 1842.

(No. 65.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 28 March 1842.

IT may be satisfactory to your Lordship to learn that your Lordship's observation regarding British Guiana, reported in the Times of the 15th February, which alluded to the necessity of giving the labourers an interest in the profits of an estate, has already made an impression here.

I have the honour to enclose a printed copy of an advertisement, placed in my hands by the proprietor, of an estate named Cuming's Lodge, in the neighbourhood of this town.

Eight farms, of 14 acres each, are offered for rent during seven years.

Mr. Garnett, the proprietor, has been a severe sufferer since emancipation; not from the idleness of his labourers, but from local impediments to the drainage of the land, which sometimes take place on the sea-coast, and, by causing inundation, are most destructive to the crops.

His present plan, if it can be carried out, offers great prospective advantage both to himself and to the farmer.

In an interview Mr. Garnett had with me, he told me that if he succeeded in obtaining tenants for the farms now offered for lease, he should lay out 300 more acres for the same object; nor would he by this denude himself of any part of his land, reserved at present for his own use.

He will then be in the position of a landed proprietor in England, renting certain portions of his property to tenants, and farming the rest for himself.

I look with much anxiety to the commencement of this new system; should it have successful results, the golden days of the West Indies may again arrive.

At present we know that many estates make less sugar than when labour was coerced. Freemen will carry their labour to the best market, or will apply their industry to what tends most to their interest.

Your Lordship has read the complaints of the proprietors on this head.

A labourer having cottage and provision-grounds, with certain other advantages gratis, generally felt himself bound to the proprietor for one paid task per diem, after which he was free to idleness or industry; the latter has been applied to job-work, or to cultivation of his provisions, both giving large profits; no other source was open to him for some time after the 1st August 1838.

Then came the desire to acquire a spot of ground, to make him independent of the estate. Abandoned estates, and estates in cultivation, have been successively, as your Lordship knows, purchased in common by labourers at large prices.

On these villages have sprung up, and from these much labour has been obtained to the neighbouring estates, which I affirm, in contradiction to what has been stated to your Lordship in the petition of proprietors connected with British Guiana in January last.

Proprietors then began to consider how this desire for independence could be made advantageous to their own estates.

Vide Despatch, No. 26, dated 1 October 1841.

The example set by Mr. Carberry at Doogeroad and Mocha, now Queen's Town, at Albert's Town, now joined to Georgetown, has been followed everywhere.

A new quarter of the town is laid out on land belonging to Mr. Albury, on La Penitence, which estate joins the present outskirts of Georgetown.

Another

Another large tract of land is now selling in lots, to the south of Georgetown, separated from it by the race-course, on an estate called The Lodge, where already several excellent houses and cottages have been erected.

On the second estate on the east sea-coast, Plantation Kitty, the proprietor has laid out his front lands for the site of a new town, to be called Prince Edward's Town, which, when Mr. Carberry has succeeded in forming an additional quarter of the town, in rear of Albert's Town, now nearly covered with houses, will almost form a continuation of Georgetown, one mile and a half eastward.

Georgetown will therefore, in the course of a very few years have a population of 50,000 inhabitants, instead of 20,000, its present probable number.

In all quarters of Demerara and Essequibo lots are thus put up for sale; but although this gives the independence so much to be appreciated, yet it will not in any way augment the exportable produce so much as by the system recommended by your Lordship, and now contemplated by Mr. Garnett.

I take the calculation we made together. We suppose 100 days' work, of one labourer per acre, ordinary labour, where the labourer has no interest in the profits, entitles the expectation of 1 ⅓ hogshead per acre, it is not too much to expect that more pains will now be taken in the cultivation, and therefore the acre ought to produce 1 ½ hogshead of sugar.

At this rate 412 acres, divided into 29 farms of 14 acres, should give 618 hogsheads, which, at 20 *l.* per hogshead, the probable average price in the most unfavourable times, gives 12,000 *l.* sterling return.

58,000 days or tasks, consecutive labour of 200 men for 300 days, are required for the cultivation of 400 acres, equal to 4,100 *l.* per annum, at one guilder per task.

The rent Mr. Garnett proposes to obtain, he fixes at 10 *l.* per acre, equal to 4,060 *l.* sterling per annum; the balance of the sale of sugar, deducting rent and labour, leaves 3,900 *l.* sterling, to be divided amongst 29 tenants, 130 *l.* sterling each per annum.

The vacant spaces on the trenches and side lines, give ample room for the cultivation of provisions to the farmer.

The only charge at present proposed to be made by Mr. Garnett for grinding and manufacture, is to reserve to himself the molasses and lees.

These changes are possible, and must conduce, not only to the prosperity of the planter, but to the elevation of the peasant, and will fit him and his progeny for being proprietors of estates.

Cuming's Lodge is an estate of 1,000 acres, of which not 200 acres are in cane cultivation; 300 are reserved for pasture and provision-grounds, the remainder can only be made profitable by the mode contemplated by Mr. Garnett.

If an impulse can be given to the existing population by the offers he has now made, and a system of farming prevail throughout the province in the same proportion, the staple commodities will be produced in tenfold quantity, the proprietors will be well paid, and may afford to cultivate their estates even sometimes at a loss, or they may become manufacturers of produce, and risk nothing as agriculturists.

I trust what I have so far written may be considered by your Lordship a subject of interest.

Under very heavy trials, Mr. Garnett has never opposed my measures, or tried to ease his own burthens by ascribing them to the Executive.

He was an alarmist during the strike, as I have had the honour of showing with my despatch, No. 33, date 2d February.

It is evident that his fears have now passed away.

I shall do my utmost to support his views, and I am inclined to think that if your Lordship were to express your approbation of Mr. Garnett's plan, in a despatch, which might be published here, it would give confidence to the labourers, who are sometimes prone to suspicion at novel schemes.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 19.

Encl. in No. 19.

TO be Let, for a term of Seven Years, Eight Farms, of 14 acres each, for the Culture of Sugar-cane, upon the Rural System of Landlord and Tenant, recommended by the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*.

THE farms form part of the sugar plantation, Cuming's Lodge, situate in the parish of St. Paul, only four miles distant from Georgetown, with which the communication is easy by an excellent public road.

The farms are severally laid out, with small drains two by two feet, at two and a half rods distance, with deep drainage, trenches and kokers, and navigable canals on three sides, and along the centre, affording the greatest facility to the transport of the produce.

The land is of the very best quality of soil in the colony, for the growth of the cane, and has at all times an ample supply of fresh water from the Lamaha Canal.

The proprietor guarantees the means of perfect drainage of the farms, and also to manufacture all the produce, either for payment in kind, or to purchase the canes at the market-price of the day when brought to his manufactory, or by valuation. And, for the conveyance of the same from the farms to the works, he engages to furnish sufficient punts and draft cattle.

The tenants can be accommodated with houses on rent, or they may build new houses upon the farms, the value of the same to be reimbursed to them at the termination of the lease.

The 70 acres of plantain land advertised to be let, is at a distance of only 600 rods (the extent of the central cane plantation) from the farms; to each of which a part would be

allotted (if required), on lease for the same period; thus forming a most important combination of sugar-cane and plantain cultivation.

The village of Celsborough, now in progress of being established, with a weekly market, is contiguous to the farms.

22 March 1842. (signed) *Abraham Garnett.*

— No. 20. —

(No. 67.)

No. 20. Despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 4 April 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to *Lord Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 4 April 1842.

HAVING directed Captain Allen, stipendiary magistrate on the Arabian Coast, Essequibo, to furnish me with an accurate return of the progress of Queen's Town, and of other free settlements in his district, he has transmitted them to me with ample and most interesting details, which are additional proofs to your Lordship that the possession of property by the labourers of this province, does not prevent them from giving a large share of their industry to the cultivation of the staple commodities.

1. I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of those returns; also a table from the same magistrate, containing in separate columns the number of children on the sugar plantations of his district, between the ages of one and five, and five and ten; tending to show that since emancipation on 1st August 1838, the mortality amongst the children has been less than in the period of slavery and apprenticeship.

2. There is a remark by Captain Allen which I think may be questioned; namely, that the mortality during the apprenticeship was also much greater amongst children of the ages marked, than since total emancipation. It is easier to imagine the difference to be more pronounced between slavery absolute and absolute freedom.

The census of the whole population, in progressive periods of age, will shortly be completed and transmitted to your Lordship, whence more comprehensive information on this point will probably be forthcoming; yet Captain Allen's table is a highly satisfactory indication and promise of augmenting population.

3. I have the honour of forwarding also copy of a letter from Captain Allen, relative to the state of his district; it announces continuous industry on the part of the labourers, content on the part of the employers, harmony thoroughly restored, and oblivion on both sides of the foolish attempt to impose unwise, unlawful, and severe restrictions on labour.

The lesson will not be forgotten, and the mutual confidence now re-established will have the most beneficial results to the prosperity of the colony.

Secure in their rights, the labourers, naturally patient and submissive, will, I think, see the necessity of continuous labour; the planters having failed in their attempts at coercion, will find it their interest to use tact and moderation.

Vain competition with each other will be abandoned, and thence they will have full power to counteract idleness.

Connected with this despatch, I have the honour to forward a plan of Queen's Town.

When I made my first report, only part of the two first streets facing the sea were cleared; the whole of the lots in rear were in thick uncleared bush, though 150 lots had been purchased.

These formed the portion of the town in front of the estate's dwelling-house; the same number of lots were laid out in the rear, of which several are now purchased.

The whole of the front lots are now cleared of bush, and the purchasers are busy in erecting houses; the streets are laid out in the regular manner shown on the plan, and an industrious and thriving population settled there, great part of whose labour is still given to the adjoining estates.

It may not be irrelevant here to state, that the proprietors of the property on the East Sea Coast, Demerara, now called Victoria, in honour of Her Majesty, have employed a surveyor to lay out the ground formerly held in common, into separate lots, part to form a regular town, the rest to be apportioned to each proprietor for his individual benefit. I have no doubt this example will be followed by the possessors of the other numerous estates purchased in common by the labourers.

4. I do not at this moment recollect the number of settlers on Victoria, but I take the liberty of forwarding a memorandum* from Mr. Bagot, now administering an estate called the John and Cove, showing the number of people from Victoria who give their labour to his estate.

With these proofs from free settlements at opposite extremities of the counties Essequibo and Demerara, there are full grounds for supposing that independence, though it may remove labourers from particular estates, yet that the estates within reach of the new acquirers of independence benefit by their industry.

I know that large independent task gangs are formed from labourers living in George Town and Albert Town, who work on neighbouring estates; it may fairly be inferred, that such examples of industry are a contradiction to the assertions of the West Indian body connected with British Guiana, to whose petition to your Lordship in January last I have already had the honour of alluding.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

* Expecting only a memorandum of a conversation with Mr. Bagot: he gave me more ample details in the annexed letter.

Enclosure 1, in No. 20.

RETURN of FREEHOLD and LEASEHOLD LABOURERS on the Arabian Coast of *Essequibo*, from *Queen's Town* to *Plantation Paradise*, inclusive, 31 March 1842.

NAME of VILLAGE, HAMLET, or SETTLEMENT.	Number of Freeholders.	Number of Leaseholders	Number of Lots Sold.	Number of Lots Leased.	Extent in each Lot.	Price of Lots where Sold, in Dollars.	Rent of Lots where Leased, in Dollars.	Duration of Lease.	Nature of Cultivation.	Number of Houses Built.	Number of Houses Building.	Average Value of Houses in Dollars.	Labouring Population. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Adults, how Employed. On Estates Adjacent.	Jobbing and Grounds of Settlers.	Domestic Offices, Hucksters, &c.	Erection of Cottages.	Total of Agricultural and other Labourers (adults.)	Not included in the foregoing. Number of Resident Tradesmen and others, with their Families, not Labourers.	Number of Houses occupied by them.
					Acr.	Dlrs.	Dlrs.	Yrs.															
Queen's Town, including West Field *	175	–	169	–	½	100 / 150 / 220	—	–	- Plantains, corn, and ground provisions.	38	12	500	62	75	65	202	20	50	47	20	137	80	12
William's Town -	15	1	1	15	¼	200	36⅔	21	ditto - -	–	–	450	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	90	15
Mainstay, Bush Lot.	–	4	–	6	¼	—	ditto	10	nothing -	4	–	500	7	6	2	15	2	3	8	–	13	5	1
Fear Not - -	–	54	–	36	½	—	32 / 38 / 44 / 50	21	- Plantains, corn, and ground provisions.	16	15	400	54	53	65	172	71	21	12	3	107	28	6
Paradise - -	3	–	3	–	½	150	—	–	ditto - -	1	1	1,000	3	2	–	–	5	–	–	–	5	–	–

* *Remarks.*—The population and houses last mentioned, include that part of West Field on the eastern side of Public Road.

REMARKS.

Queen's Town.—THIS settlement is rapidly increasing; most of the lots are already in cultivation; and, as these are completed, the business of erecting a cottage commences. To keep up the cultivation of half an acre of provision ground will not demand, on an average, beyond two days' labour per month of an adult. There will thus remain $\frac{11}{12}$ths of the labourers' time throughout the year to bestow on the adjoining estates. The prospects, therefore, of a freeholder on a location similar to that of Queen's Town is most promising; and where his resources are not crippled by the purchase of the land and the erection of his cottage, a comfortable independence, with ordinary industry, may be relied on. A building for a church and school-room has just been completed; when these have come into operation, the freeholders can have little to desire. An abundant supply of fresh water is obtained by means of a trench communicating with the Capory Creek. The drainage has been rendered complete by the putting in of an iron koker at Westfield. The sea appears to have encroached on the southern side of Queen's Town during the high springs which have occurred since January last; should this continue, it will be necessary to make a front dam of the present public road; to provide for this contingency, a space has been left in the allotments for another road, which the proprietor of "Dageraad and Mocha" will have to complete at his own expense, unless, in the meantime, he should dispose of the whole of the property. Encl. 1, in No. 20.

William's Town.—This settlement is of limited extent, and the leaseholders are chiefly of a class not formerly slaves or apprenticed labourers. The heads of families are as follows:

Storekeepers - - - - -	5	Coopers - - - - -	1
Surgeon - - - - -	1	Masons - - - - -	1
Watchmakers - - - -	1	Hucksters - - - -	1
Shoemakers - - - - -	1	Sempstress - - - -	1
Cabinetmakers - - - -	1		
Carpenters - - - - -	2	Total - - -	16
Blacksmith and engineer -	1		

Of these, seven were formerly slaves or apprenticed labourers. The rent of a quarter of an acre is extremely high, and little land in so restricted a space can be devoted to agricultural purposes. The labour is bestowed by the inhabitants on the estates, except in occasional jobs about the buildings.

Mainstay, Bush Lot.—The settlers here are fortunately limited, the rent of land being extravagant; soil indifferent where the buildings are established, and the leaseholders being prohibited from keeping any but feathered stock. The cattle of the various estates which roam about unmolested on the public roads here, as elsewhere, preclude the raising of provisions,

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

visions, unless enclosed; the prospects of the few persons residing on this place are therefore anything but encouraging.

Fear Not.—This hamlet is becoming very flourishing; the population exceedingly industrious; the majority of the adults, and even some of the children, bestowing a portion of labour on the adjoining estates. The rent for half an acre, payable in advance, is from 32 to 50 dollars per annum, according to its proximity to the public road. It is to be regretted that the people here are not freeholders, which would render their situation secure, and prospects encouraging. The attorney of the estate (Plantation Fear Not) in front of which the hamlet is situated, has written to the proprietors in England (the Messrs. Daniells) for permission to sell, in which case the present occupiers would, no doubt, convert their present tenure into freehold.

Paradise.—This establishment, adjoining Plantation Walton Hall, is of recent origin, but promises well; a very respectable body of labourers have just concluded an agreement with the attorney of the estate (Mr. Brumell) for the purchase of about 250 acres of land, for the sum of 5,000 dollars; one half to be paid down, the balance in two equal instalments, at one and two years' date. The attorney promises to make a navigable trench from the back dam to the sea, for the purpose of shipping produce or provisions, and to put in a good iron koker; as the land is of good quality, and the character of the purchasers such as to ensure industry and correct conduct, there is little to doubt of this location speedily becoming a thriving village.

Plantation *Dartmouth.*—Mr. Brumell, above alluded to, also attorney of this estate, has made a free gift to 20 labourers of a lot of land each, (containing half an acre,) as "a return for their exemplary conduct and invaluable services during a period when the estate was suffering from bad drainage, and from having the back dams nearly destroyed." Such a testimony is alike honourable to employer and employed.

(signed) *J. A. Allen*, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(A true copy.) *W. B. Wolseley*, Assist. Gov. Secy.

Enclosure 2, in No. 20.

Encl. 2, in No. 20. RETURN of CHILDREN in District (H.) from Plantation *Taymouth Manor* to Plantation *Evergreen* inclusive, as taken on the 15th October 1841.

Names of Sugar Estates.	Number of Children. Under Five Years.	Number of Children. Five to Ten Years.	REMARKS.
Taymouth Manor	42	21	The children under 5 years of age must have been born since the 15th October 1836, comprising a period of about 1¾ year of the apprenticeship, and 3¼ years of freedom.
Affiance	49	22	
Columbia	42	31	
Aberdeen	29	15	
Three Friends	21	13	
Land of Plenty	42	45	The children from 5 to 10 years must have been born between the 15th October 1831 and 15th October 1836, including a period of about 2¾ years of slavery, and 2¼ years of apprenticeship.
Mainstay	31	18	
Reliance	35	18	
Anna Regina	129	126	
Henrietta	13	7	
Richmond	42	28	As it is generally admitted, from causes which may readily be accounted for, that the mortality among the very young children during the apprenticeship exceeded that of a like period of slavery, the increase during the 3¼ years of absolute freedom, as shown by the present statement, will appear the more striking and remarkable.
La Belle Alliance	41	34	
Lima	73	33	
Coffee Grove	52	13	
Fear Not	14	11	
Sparta	15	13	
Windsor Castle	90	34	
Hampton Court	64	34	
Devonshire Castle	74	59	
Walton Hall	51	32	
On sugar estates	979	629	
On four plantain and cattle farms, viz. Exmouth, Perth, Westbury, and Evergreen	48	23	
In hamlets and detached dwellings	50	39	
Total	1,077	691	

(signed) *J. A. Allen*, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(A true copy.) *W. B. Wolseley*, Assist. Gov. Secy.

Enclosure 3, in No. 20.

DISTRICT (H.)

Sir, 2 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the return, required by your memorandum of the 16th ultimo, of the freehold and leasehold labourers in this district and at Queen's Town.

The number of adults working on estates is considerable; and after their grounds have been fully put into cultivation, and cottages completed, the proportion will be much greater.

Within these few weeks land has been offered for sale on several estates in the district, not adverted to in the return; a satisfactory proof of the change which is taking place in the minds of proprietors, as to the expediency or policy of rendering the labouring population independent in every sense of the word.

When about, by his Excellency's sanction, to quit the colony on a short leave of absence, I would remark on the universal industry and general good conduct of the labourers throughout this district.

During a recent visit to most of the estates, not a murmur of dissatisfaction was expressed by any manager; on the contrary, many said that they never knew the people to work more assiduously, nor perform that work in a better manner, than since the termination of the late unhappy differences, arising out of the attempt to establish the "Rules and Regulations."

In the active part which I have at all times taken to conciliate employer and employed, and to promote the welfare of both, I have done no more than my duty; but it is a proud satisfaction to reflect that the success of my efforts may chiefly be ascribed to the opinion which the labouring class entertained of my having their best interests at heart, and that, in whatever advice I offered, there could be no bias of a sinister kind.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. A. Allen,*
Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Honourable H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary.

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Gov. Secy.

Enclosure 4, in No. 20.

Sir, 4 April 1842.

REFERRING to a conversation I had the honour to hold with your Excellency, on the subject of selling to labourers portions of the land of estates, and to certain conflicting opinions as to whether or not such a proceeding be advantageous to an estate, in providing and securing a certain and steady supply of labour for its staple cultivation, I beg leave to lay before you the following statements relative to two estates under my direction, disproving the assertions of those who still maintain the negative, and support it by saying that the disposition of the black man is inert from working more than suffices for his few natural wants, and which would be amply supplied by the trifling quantity of labour requisite for the cultivation of such portion of the land as he might thus purchase. Encl. 4, in No. 20.

The first relates to the sugar estate John and Cove, on the east coast, and although none of the land of this estate has been sold, it adjoins the Victoria Settlement, belonging, as your Excellency knows, to a number of labourers, many of whom have built houses, and reside thereon. I obtained the direction of this estate in July last, and have ever since had a continued daily supply of labour from the Victoria; at first to the amount of 40 people, and for the last four or five months of 84 on an average.

The cultivation of this estate is about 280 acres in canes, and the effective strength of labour residing on it is about 45 people.

It is quite evident, therefore, that but for the supply of labour from the Victoria, and which, I beg here to remark, is constant and undeviating for the six days of the week, the greater part of the canes would necessarily be abandoned. The boilermen and distillers, and most of the head men, are residing on and are proprietors of the Victoria; so that, indeed, the estate could not be conducted without them to any profit.

The second relates to the coffee and plantain estate Den Amstel, on the west coast.

About two years ago I commenced selling the front lands of this estate, in lots of half an acre, and at that time the effective strength was 35 to 40 people.

I have sold about 80 lots, and a very considerable village has arisen and is extending thereon, from which I have had a daily supply of labour for many months, to the amount of 30 people, and in addition to this about 20 more have located themselves in the estate cottages, who have purchased lots in front, and who are constant daily labourers at the coffee cultivation, while they are gradually erecting their own houses.

Appendix III.

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On this estate I have more labour than I require, except in crop time, and have been obliged within the last fortnight to discharge from daily work about 35 effective labourers, having finished the last crop and shipped it to the market a month ago, which no other coffee estate has yet done, and which I have been enabled to do mainly in consequence of the great increase of labour I can at all times secure, from having two years ago adopted the plan, which so many are at last beginning to follow, of locating a population on the estate by the sale in lots of the front lands.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Light. (signed) *Thomas C. Bagot.*

(True copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Gov. Secy.

— No. 21. —

(No. 68.)

No. 21. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 11 April 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 11 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of the return of produce shipped from British Guiana in the first quarter of 1842.

I beg your Lordship's attention to the fact, that at Berbice there is a satisfactory increase in sugar, molasses, and rum over the corresponding quarter of 1841. In Berbice there were no "Rules."

That in Essequibo and Demerara, though there is a diminution, not unanticipated, in consequence of the strike, of the three staple commodities above mentioned, yet throughout the province the decrease is inconsiderable.

There is an increase in the exportation of coffee, though the return for Berbice shows a decrease.

There is every reason for believing that the succeeding returns will be more satisfactory, as the labourers are generally working industriously.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 21.

Encl. in No. 21.

COLONIAL PRODUCE shipped from this Colony in the First Quarter of 1842, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of 1841.

	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Coffee.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	*Puncheons.*	*Casks.*	*Lbs. wt.*	*Bales.*
Demerara, 1st quarter 1841	5,785	2,572	4,167	106,050	Nil.
Berbice - ditto - -	1,716	449	283	225,400	—
	7,501	3,021	4,450	331,450	—
Demerara, 1st quarter 1842	4,981	2,489	2,073	787,800	1 ½
Berbice - ditto - -	2,230	713	1,060	106,050	Nil.
	7,211	3,202	3,133	893,850	1 ½
Increase - -	- -	181	- -	562,400	1 ½
Decrease - -	290	- -	1,317	—	—

Custom-house, Georgetown, Demerara, 7 April 1842.

(signed) *Charles Robinson,* Collector.

(A true copy.)

W. B. Wolseley, Assist Govt Secy.

— No. 22. —

(No. 69.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 22.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
12 April 1842.

My Lord, Government-House, Demerara, 12 April 1842.

THOUGH my despatches to your Lordship, relative to the disagreement which existed between the employers and labourers, now happily at an end, will I trust have satisfied your Lordship, that so far as wages are in question, the labourers have had little disposition to be unreasonable in their demands, and that I have myself lost no opportunity of pointing out to them the necessity of submitting to a reduction of wages in consequence of the diminished price of produce; yet it may not be irrelevant to make a few observations on your Lordship's despatch, No. 61, dated 8th March, in which I have the satisfaction of reading that my measures, so far as known to your Lordship, have been generally approved.

It would appear from your Lordship's despatch, that you have fears that the unreasonable demands of the labourers are productive of evil to the prosperity of this colony.

I cannot but advert to the extreme desire shown by some of the planters, who rule this colony, to prove that the labourers are generally an idle race, unreasonable in their demands, and desirous of withdrawing from the cultivation of the staple produce.

I stated to your Lordship, that at the publication of the "Rules and Regulations" which led to the "strike," those proprietors whose good sense led them to repudiate the conduct of their brother planters, found no difficulty in reducing the wages, while the labour of their estates was not discontinued for a day.

A temporary withdrawal from the labour of an estate naturally follows the purchase by a labourer of a freehold; yet when the new purchase is cleared and planted (for his house, unless he be a carpenter himself, must be built for him), the labourer is quite willing to earn wages; he follows his calling, whatever it may be, and gives his labour, either as mechanic or cultivator, to the neighbouring estates. In my despatch, No. 67, date 4th April, I forwarded Captain's Allen's report of Queen's Town and other free settlements on the Arabian coast; it was accompanied by a letter from Mr. Bagot, administering the John and Cove, and owner of a coffee estate; on the former, a large body of the owners of Victoria work continuously for the estate, which has been fortunate in being in the vicinity of such a village. Plantation Greenfield is on the east side of this village, and is largely benefited by the labour of its inhabitants; other settlements on the East Sea Coast, bought by the labourers, are all giving labour to the adjoining estates.

In Berbice, one estate has been brought into cane cultivation since 1st of August 1838 entirely by freeholders; and another, belonging to the same owner, or rather late owner, Mr. Blair, has been long cultivated by freeholders. It was the mistaken policy of the planters that led the labourers to seek freeholds far from their own original location; and it is a remarkable fact, that the above-mentioned estates have great part of the labour performed by labourers who left Blairmont and Balthyock, belonging also to the late Mr. Blair, to seek independence on land adjoining the estates above alluded to, whose cultivation is now almost dependent on the new freeholders. I am promised detailed proofs of this by the attorney of the estates, which I shall have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship.

If estates are worked at so great a loss as is described by the planters, it is probable the cultivation will be abandoned; but it by no means follows that less sugar will be made; the hands thrown out of employment on one estate, will help to increase the cultivation of more flourishing estates; the case is occurring every day; people flock to estates in whose proprietors or managers they confide, and whose characters are known to them: with these additional hands more land is brought into cultivation. In this Sir Michael M'Turk is pre-eminent; had he accommodation on his estates, he might have double the number of labourers he now employs.

It is probable that a system, in which the labourers will find it advantageous to work in joint profit with the owners of the estates, will some day or other be introduced; but this will only be where capital is wanted to pay the labourers.

The labourers at present seem to prefer the payment of wages to the distant return which a share of profits would give them.

More than one planter has offered terms such as those alluded to in your Lordship's despatch, but the labourers refused to accept them, either mistrusting the offer, or not understanding its advantages.

The attention of the labourer is now solely turned to independent freehold; what the proposed tenancy law may produce I will not pretend to anticipate.

This law, from the various delays in the Court of Policy, has not yet been debated; I have not thought it expedient to press it without the concurrence of the colonial members.

Of Mr. Garnett's advertisement for rent of farms, forwarded with my despatch, No. 65, date 28th March, I have heard nothing more. If such a system can become popular amongst the labourers, it will and must tend to the increasing prosperity of this colony.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

In conclusion, I will venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the effect the introduction of cotton from the United States of America had upon that once great staple of British Guiana.

The cotton growers were enabled to fall back on sugar cultivation; if the planters now have to compete with slave-growing colonies, not all the industry of the present limited population which may exist can save them from ruin, unless the introduction of foreign sugars be so regulated that British colonial sugar should not average less than 20 *l.* per hogshead.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

— No. 23. —

(No. 78.)

No. 23. Governor Light to Lord Stanley. 21 April 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 21 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the ship Lady Rowena, on board which 402 liberated Africans had been embarked, arrived here from St. Helena on the 19th inst.

Two deaths occurred in the passage of 27 days; but these were compensated for by several births*.

The Africans arrived in good health and spirits, and were yesterday consigned to 20 estates in Essequibo and Demerara whose owners or attorneys have repudiated the "Rules and Regulations," in squads of 20 each, classed according to family or other ties; and where the existence of proper accommodation has been certified by the stipendiary magistrates of the districts.

I have the honour to forward copy of my minute to the Agent-general, and of his report as to condition, location, and number of the Africans on board the Lady Rowena.

I have also the honour to forward copy of a letter from the governor of St. Helena.

The sum expended in clothing the Africans previous to embarkation demanded by him, will be paid out of the emigration funds of this colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 23.

MEMORANDUM for the Emigration Agent-general.

Encl. 1, in No. 23.

FROM the information which I have received, it appears to me that the captured Africans cannot be more advantageously located than with the following proprietors of estates, in the proportion of 20 to each estate. The Emigration Agent-general will take care to ascertain that the "new Rules and Regulations" are not intended to be applied to the case of any of these Africans; after which the distribution, as herein set forth, is to be immediately effected, due care being taken to respect the family ties of the Africans, should any exist.

In Demerara:

Plantation	Cuming's Lodge	Abraham Garnett, esq.
—	Le Resouvenir	Thomas Porter.
—	Paradise	ditto.
—	Enmore	ditto.
—	Nonpareil	James Kirkwood and J. Kilgour.
—	Baillie's Hope	David Baillie.
—	La Bonne Mere	R. Mackay, attorney.
—	Lusignan	Spencer Mackay.
—	Lowlands	John Jones, esq., attorney.
—	La Jalousie	R. French, esq.
—	Blankenburg	R. Rudder, esq.
—	Herstelling	Heemakuk, of Amsterdam; Retemeyer attorney.
—	Greenfield	James Glen.

* According to verbal report; the agent's report notes one birth only.

In Essequibo:

Plantation	Spring Garden	Benjamin & Duff.
—	Hoff van Holland	Schaade, attorney.
—	Anna Regina	Moss, of Liverpool.
—	Land of Plenty	Archdeacon Austin.
—	Bathsheba's Lust	ditto.
—	Palmyra	Hon. John Croat.
—	Good Success	J. Evans.

East Coast Demerara	10 estates.
West Coast Demerara	2 ditto.
River Demerara	1 ditto.
Coast of Essequibo	5 ditto.
Islands of Essequibo	2 ditto.

20 April 1842. (signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 23.

REPORT of the Agent-General for Immigration, on the Arrival of the Ship Lady Rowena from St. Helena with captured Africans. Encl. 2, in No. 23.

Sir, Demerara, 22 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, on the state and distribution, &c. of the captured Africans, arrived on the 19th instant by the Lady Rowena from St. Helena, 400 in number, and of the following ages and sexes; viz.

122 male adults.
100 ditto, under 14 years of age.
102 female adults.
76 ditto, under 14 years of age.

Total Males	222
Ditto Females	178
Grand Total	400

Out of whom about six only appeared to be under seven years of age.

The Lady Rowena has had a passage of 27 days, happily without the occurrence of any accident or casualty during the time, beyond the loss of two children, who died of dysentery, according to the report of Dr. Kennedy, under whose medical charge the emigrants were placed at St. Helena.

Having inspected the vessel on her arrival, and the remaining portion of the stores, water, &c. I am bound to state, that due care appears to have been observed in providing all that was necessary for the wants and comforts of the people on board, who (with the exception of a few, recovering from a slight ophthalmic affection), were in excellent health; and from the laughing and merriment going forward among them, they were evidently enjoying the most pleasurable anticipations of their future prospects here.

I have not failed, in the distribution of these immigrants, to give every possible effect to the Governor's instructions respecting family ties, where I have been able to discover that such existed; even mutual preferences and attachments, recently formed, have been regarded: and the several parties, 20 in number, and consisting of about 20 persons in each (the sexes and ages being as equally proportioned as circumstances would admit), departed from the ship on board of the various schooners which were anchored around ready for their reception, and proceeded at once for their respective destinations, without the slightest murmur or complaint, the parties representing the estates to which they have been allotted guaranteeing that the "new Rules and Regulations" should not be applied in their case.

In addition to these 400 captured Africans, there also came by the Lady Rowena, one white man (William Huntley), as superintendent, one island woman and her child, one liberated African, under 14 years, and an infant born on the passage, making altogether a gross number of 405 immigrants.

Annexed is a copy of the Governor's memorandum with reference to the location and allotment of these people; and it affords me much pleasure, in the discharge of my duty, to be able to state that his Excellency's commands and wishes in their behalf have been very satisfactorily fulfilled.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Hackett,*
Agent-General for Immigration.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Enclosure 3, in No. 23.

Encl. 3, in No. 23.

Males:
Over 14 years - 122
Under 14 years - 101
— 223

Females:
Over 14 years - 102
Under 14 years - 72
Infants - - 5
— 179

402

£. 303. 1. 8.

Sir, St. Helena, 22 March 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 17th November last, and have now to acquaint your Excellency that, agreeably to your request, I have caused to be embarked on the barque Lady Rowena 402 Africans of the description named in the margin. Captain Clayton applied to take them on board without clothing, which I declined sanctioning; nor could I permit any expense to be borne by Her Majesty's Government, my instructions to the contrary being peremptory.

Upon the same principle which I adopted in sending 650 to the Cape of Good Hope, I have now allowed the Africans for your colony to embark with the clothes they have on, and the additional quantity required for the voyage, the whole of which clothing has been supplied by the contractor, under the direction of the collector of customs, the amount of which expense I herewith enclose, and have the honour to request you will be pleased to direct the payment thereof, as therein advised.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hamelin Trelawny*,
Colonel and Governor.

His Excellency Henry Light, Esq.
Governor, British Guiana, Demerara.

(A true copy.)
W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

— No. 24. —

(No. 80.)

No. 24.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
29 April 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 29 April 1842.

HAVING been requested by Mr. Carbery to be present at the opening of the new church fitted up by him at an expense of 500 *l.* sterling, for the new settlement, Queen's Town, I proceeded thither on Saturday the 23d instant, and had the satisfaction, on the following Sunday, of seeing 300 people, chiefly settlers on the estate, assembled to assist at Divine worship, according to the Church of England, in a well-proportioned and well-arranged building, with communion-table, pulpit, and reading-desk, benches and chairs, where all the solemnities and decencies of the most civilised congregation were preserved, where the responses were as clearly given, and the psalms as well sung by the labourers' children, as in many a country village church in England, and where good clothing and clean linen were not exceptions, but rule.

It was a gratifying spectacle, and may be considered another trophy of emancipation, on which I may congratulate your Lordship.

The whole front lands of the estate, one-half of which were in bush when I visited the Essequibo in the autumn last year, are now cleared and planted ready for building, which of course progresses according to the means of the purchasers, and several lots on the back lands are already built on.

The inhabitants, present and future, will have the advantage of a resident clergyman, to whom Mr. Carbery has liberally granted a comfortable residence.

I remained at Queen's Town until Wednesday morning the 27th instant, and took the opportunity of my residence there to visit several estates where captured Africans had been located, namely, Anna Regina, Land of Plenty, Richmond, and Mainstay, at the two latter of which the children taken in the slaver on the Arabian coast were located, Bathsheba's Lust and Spring Gardens, the last cultivated estate on the Essequibo River.

At Richmond, which, with all the other estates I visited without notice, I found the captured children were at a distant field, doing light work, and it would have taken more time than I could spare to wait for their return; but at Mainstay there were 30 employed about the buildings, who were readily collected; their looks, manners and condition giving full proofs of their being well treated. They greeted the manager with the salutation of their native land, by loud clapping of their hands and cheerful smiles, evidently the results of kind feeling.

An old Congo woman, a slave of former days, who cooked for and took care of such of these children as were not lodged with the Creole families of the estate, was able to interpret a few questions I wished to make as to their health and treatment, which were answered satisfactorily.

On inquiry from one or two how they became slaves to the Spaniard, whose vessel was captured, I found that they were sold by relatives, and did not much regret their native land. Here they got plenty of yam, meaning that they were well fed.

The Africans brought from St. Helena, whom I had located on the other mentioned estates, all (and I saw all) were in good condition, and readily took to any work given them with cheerfulness. The managers seem to feed them well, and it is their interest to do so.

I observed

I observed on almost every estate I passed during my route on the Essequibo Coast, that the proprietors have their front lands marked for sale in lots of acres, halves and thirds of acres.

Independent settlements are now as readily offered as formerly they were dreaded.

The reports of the stipendiary magistrates as to the industry of the labourers, and the mutual harmony between employers and employed, have been confirmed to me by the different managers and proprietors I conversed with, and they generally anticipate a larger crop this year than during the last.

I cannot conclude this despatch without mentioning that experience has not yet taught all the planters that by seducing or enticing away labourers from each other, they are acting against the general interests of each other.

The manager of Spring Gardens, where apparently the cottages are of the best sort, and where they are arranged with all the neatness of an English village, and every indication of attention to the comforts of the labourers, complained most bitterly to me of having lost 37 of his best hands, one-half taken off in the night clandestinely, the other half equally without notice, during the day, in schooners sent for them from another part of the province, without any communication of the intended removal being made to the manager.

If planters persist in this sort of conduct, they themselves help to augment wages and discontent.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

— No. 25. —

(No. 87.)

No. 25.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
3 May 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 3 May 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a letter from a planter at Berbice, to Mr. Justice Firebrace, and of an agreement drawn up, between the attorneys of the estate called Philadelphia and some labourers on the estate, which documents were placed in my hands yesterday.

I think them of sufficient importance to be transmitted to your Lordship, as showing that a commencement is made of the metarie system, and that the best results from this first experiment are anticipated.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 25.

Encl. in No. 25.

My dear Sir, Berbice, 26 April 1842.

As you were pleased to make inquiries when here about my proposed plan of cultivating sugar upon the principle of sharing the produce with the labourer, and thus by identifying the interests of the white and black, produce that harmony so little of which exists under the present system, and which is so essential for the prosperity of either, I now beg to enclose you copy of contract my friend Mr. Daly has drawn out; he being, with myself, jointly and severally attorney for the property on which the experiment is being carried out.

There is no sort of restraint sought to be imposed on the labourer, as I am of opinion his self-interest will prevent him from neglecting or injuring the farm thus entrusted to him.

I have let three different parcels, say farms, on the same terms, and it is quite cheering to see how assiduously they labour on them, without subtracting from their usual quantity of daily labour on the general work of the estate. I could have let several more, but do not wish to add much extra surface to the present cultivation; and am confident that as soon as the canes are cut I am now growing, the people will take the land as fast as cleared, and by February next I think there is a fair prospect of the whole being leased out, and, as a matter of course, there will be no pay-list for field-labour; consequently there can be no more squabbling between the manager and the labourers as to the quantity of labour done or the remuneration to be given for it.

The black, seeing that it is his interest to do so, will cultivate his farm to the best advantage, and the white will have literally nothing to do but to manufacture the produce.

Should you favour me by mentioning the arrangement to his Excellency, I hope he will approve of what has been done; and my only emulation is now to prove to the colony, that as during the times both of slavery and apprenticeship large returns were made, so by a judicious adaptation of ourselves to the altered state of the community, results may be just as prosperous and gratifying now.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Edgelow.*

His Honor Samuel Firebrace,
Acting First Puisne Judge, &c.

(A true copy.)
W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

MEMORANDUM of AGREEMENT made this 21st day of April 1842, between *Thomas Edgelow* and *John Daly*, on the one part, in quality as Attorneys of *Langford Lovell Hodge* and *William Munro*, M.D., and *Eliza Munro*, his Wife, Owners of the Plantation Philadelphia, situate in the County of Berbice, within the Colony of British Guiana, on the one part, and *Joseph Chippenfield*, for himself and on behalf of *Lawrence Barnes, Adam Browne, Fingal Richards, Raty Cooper, Willis Hill, Jack Steele, Gilbert Cooper, Dick Ross, Chisholm Evans.*

THE said Thomas Edgelow and John Daly, in their qualities aforesaid, do hereby agree, in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter mentioned and agreed, to let and lease unto the said parties of the second part 15 acres of land, more or less, of the plantation Philadelphia, situate, lying and being known as fields numbered on the said plantation as the windward halves of Nos. 13 and 14, and to hold the same for the term of 12 calendar months from the 21st day of April 1842. And the parties of the first part do hereby covenant and agree that they shall and will at all times during the said lease find and provide for the parties of the second part a sufficient and proper number of cane plants to cultivate the said [redacted] acres of land so leased unto them the parties of the second part; and they do further covenant and agree, at all times during the term of said lease, to cause to be conveyed at their own expense all such ripe canes as shall be cut by the parties of the second part upon such 15 acres, and to deliver the same at the buildings of the said plantation, and to manufacture the juice thereof and to make sugar therefrom at the cost and charges of the parties of the first part.

And the parties of the first part do moreover bind and oblige themselves and their constituents to give over to the parties of the second part one third share of all the sugar so to be made from the canes, which shall be made and cultivated and cut on the said 15 acres; that is to say, that when the sugar is made from the produce of the said 15 acres, every third hogshead of 40 inch truss of sugar, shall be at the absolute use and disposal of the parties of the second part, as their own private property and for their individual use and benefit.

And the parties of the second part do severally bind and oblige themselves to take over and rent the before-mentioned 15 acres of land from the parties of the first part, in manner and form as hereinbefore set forth, and they engage duly to cultivate the same with sugar canes (the plants for that purpose being provided by the parties of the first part,) and to cut the same when ripe, and to place the same when so cut at the canal dams, to be by the parties of the first part conveyed to the buildings for manufacture.

And during the period of the said lease, they agree, on their part, to keep open, and in good order and repair, the side line, dams and trenches or ditches, of and belonging to the said premises and lands so leased unto them for the purpose aforesaid; and doth agree to take the aforesaid lands for the said term, and under the said conditions in manner aforesaid, and to execute a counterpart of the lease to be thereof granted. In witness thereof we have hereunto set our hands this 21st day of April 1842, in the county of Berbice aforesaid, and in the presence of witnesses.

(signed) *Thomas Edgelow*, Attorney.
John Daly, Attorney.
his
Joseph + Chippenfield,
mark.

Witnesses:
(signed) *Samuel Haywood.*
G. Parys.

(A true copy.)
W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

— No. 26. —

(No. 88.)

No. 26.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
5 May 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 5 May 1842.

AT the request of Mr. Sandbach, the senior financial representative, I have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship copy of a letter addressed to the Government Secretary, and enclosing three documents, which Mr. Sandbach wishes should be referred to the Parliamentary Committee on West Indian Affairs.

1. 2. 3.

It occurred to me that at least one of these documents, that marked No. (3.) being the amount of taxes paid in each year, from 1835 to 1841 inclusive, is not framed so as to convey all the information of which its subject-matter is susceptible, and I accordingly desired the financial accountant to prepare an additional document, from 1835 to 1841 inclusive, which document is herewith forwarded, and numbered (4.)

4.

Mr. Sandbach's object is to show that, whilst the crops have successively diminished, the taxes have successively increased.

Had

Had it been merely stated that there was an increased public expenditure during the years mentioned in Mr. Sandbach's returns, it would have been necessary only to show that this result naturally and properly flows from the total change in society which the freedom of the people occasioned, and the consequent demand for enlarged or altogether new institutions.

The contrast is, however, sought to be drawn between the diminished agricultural exports and the increased contributions to the public treasury.

The inference would seem to be that the demands of the public on the planters have been augmented, whilst his crops have diminished.

On examination, however, of the causes which led to the collection of an increased revenue, of the sources from whence that increased revenue was derived, and the proportion of tax which was levied on agricultural exports during the time that an increased revenue was required, will materially affect the force of the influence which it is probable Mr. Sandbach wishes to establish.

In the first place, in addition to taxation on his agricultural exports, formerly the planter exclusively paid a heavy capitation tax. His relief from this burthen rendered a corresponding supply of other revenue necessary, and it was sought and found, not in an imposition to be borne solely by him, but by an import and other similar taxes, which fall equally on all classes of the community.

Import duties and licences for the sale of various necessaries of life have been greatly increased; the consumption of rum heavily taxed, and laws framed so as to discourage the use of other spirit than this domestic staple.

The Return No. (4.) which was prepared by my desire as a necessary supplement to Mr. Sandbach's document, shows that in some cases the tax collected from the agricultural exports, either did not increase at all or else diminished during the years when the enlarged wants of the public called for and obtained an augmented revenue.

I must not omit to remark that during the later years embraced in Mr. Sandbach's returns, the treasury required to be replenished to a greater extent than formerly, not only because of the large sums applied as premiums for machinery to abridge agricultural labour, and for the introduction of emigrants, but also because of the expenses which the emigrants entailed on the gaol and hospital establishment of the colony.

It is also to be observed that the tax on agricultural exports is a *quasi ad valorem* tax, and that an enhanced value was frequently attended with a diminished impost.

In 1841, the tax on the agricultural exports was necessarily high, from the stoppage of the supplies during great part of the previous year, and then scarcely exceeded one-fifth part of the gross amount of taxes collected.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 26.

Sir, Demerara, 3 May 1842.

I BEG to hand you enclosed returns of the crops of the counties of Demerara and Essequibo of the estimates of taxes and the sums actually paid into the chest during the years 1835 to 1839, both inclusive; also returns of the crops and the estimates for taxes for the three counties of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, during the years 1840 and 1841, together with the amounts paid into the chest by the counties of Demerara and Essequibo during the first year, and by the then counties during the last, showing that while the crops have fallen off one-half, the taxes have increased in a similar proportion. I have to request that you will lay these returns, together with this letter, before his Excellency the Governor, in order that they may be transmitted, with his Excellency's address to the Combined Court, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the information of the Parliamentary Committee now engaged in inquiring into the condition of the West India colonies. Encl. in No. 26.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. R. Sandbach,*
V. P. F. R.

The Hon. H. E. F. Young,
Government Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

(A true copy.)
W. B. Wolseley, Assistant Government Secretary.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(1.) - - - - - - - - -

STATEMENT of the Quantity of PRODUCE made in the Counties of

YEAR.	POUNDS OF SUGAR.	GALLONS OF RUM. - - - -				
		PROOF, 24.	23.	22.	21.	20.
1835 - -	87,622,412	1,952,577	8,642	84,612	5,108	119,030
1836 - -	85,982,756	1,223,673	12,072	61,900	1,461	97,044
1837 - -	82,936,165	1,051,843	800	26,556	5,300	110,555
1838 - -	60,530,334	781,030 ½	10,187	40,898	9,952	63,970
1839 - -	47,764,110	901,737	41,019	52,902	11,660	48,965
1840 - -	51,222,672	762,404	29,204	21,961	2,612	106,130
1841 - -	41,998,480	339,135	34,637	15,368	11,194	93,109
COUNTY OF BERBICE:						
1835 - -	19,563,993	698,365	465	994	- -	- -
1836 - -	21,823,493	631,270	- -	- -	- -	106
1837 - -	18,715,135	570,682	- -	- -	- -	- -
1838 - -	16,522,403	498,142	- -	- -	- -	- -
1839 - -	12,451,690	504,498	- -	- -	- -	22,542
1840 - -	10,668,447	361,999	1,471	- -	- -	24,440
1841 - -	10,045,417	268,185	7,795	16,057	- -	13,794

(2.)

Counties of *Demerara* and *Essequibo*.

Estimate of the Amount of Taxes required for the service of the year 1835 - *f.* 820,871 9 -
Ditto - - - ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - 1836 - 930,804 7 8
Ditto - - - ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - 1837 - 1,170,240 8 8
Ditto - - - ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - 1838 - 1,427,667 16 8
Ditto - - - ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - 1839 - $. 456,082 14

Counties of *Demerara*, *Essequibo*, and *Berbice*.

Estimate of the Amount of Taxes required for the service of the year 1840 - $. 700,918 25
Ditto - - - ditto - - - - - - - ditto - - - 1841 - 1,145,870 46

George Milleman, Financial Accountant.

(3.)

Counties of *Demerara* and *Essequibo*.

Amount of Taxes, &c. paid into the Colonial Chest in the year 1835 - - - *f.* 716,530 15 8
Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - 1836 - - - 1,237,253 19 -
Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - 1837 - - - 1,158,992 5 8
Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - 1838 - - - 1,398,418 - 4
Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - 1839 - - - $. 463,890 15
Ditto - - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - 1840 - - - 308,151 21½

Counties of *Demerara*, *Essequibo*, and *Berbice*.

Amount of Taxes, &c. paid into the Colonial Chests in the year 1841 - - - $. 1,091,848 95/

George Milleman, Financial Accountant.

(1.)

Demerara and *Essequibo*, from the Year 1835 to 1841, both inclusive.

GALLONS OF RUM.		GALLONS OF MOLASSES.	POUNDS OF COTTON.	POUNDS OF COFFEE.	OTHER REVENUE.	PLANTAINS SOLD.	CATTLE SOLD.
19.	18.						
704,943	169,131	2,852,040	611,680	1,425,443	*f.* 32,107	297,400	80,843,18
734,179	260,591	3,501,990	466,078	2,435,741	399,019,15	404,570	82,008
570,834	263,540	3,160,669	425,737	2,394,766	55,276	554,183	112,926
503,405	340,772	1,971,125½	313,136	567,974	52,108	426,121	93,295
386,657	299,380	1,228,357	235,697	1,578,062	$ 18,749	255,603	60,766
559,983	244,720	1,592,530	57,490	582,209	$ 21,870	204,818	50,889
587,879	152,691	1,328,049	16,200	866,211	$ 11,835	$ 301,291	
- -	- -	253,381	256,262	1,640,299	*f.* 20,365	107,053	39,442
- -	- -	543,578	190,824	3,239,991	560	122,896	86,645
- -	- -	434,478	137,716	1,945,588	24,687	212,179	106,966
- -	- -	382,954	94,324	1,222,565	3,860	129,099	69,523
- -	- -	130,029	50,245	1,466,916	$ 2,877	43,134	17,451
- -	- -	211,312	3,000	1,111,100	- -	32,045	34,754
- -	3,818	256,757	3,000	347,799	$ 9,349	$ 38,975	

George Milleman, Financ[l] Account[t].

(4.)

STATEMENT of TAXES paid into the Colonial Chest during the undermentioned Years; Rate of Tax on Produce; Value of Sugar, as estimated for Taxation; and Amount of Tax paid on Produce.

YEAR	Amount of Taxes, &c. paid into Chest.	Rate of Tax on Produce.	Value of Sugar for Taxation.	Amount of Tax on Produce.
	Counties of *Demerara* and *Essequibo*.			
	$. Cts.			$. Cts.
1835 - - - -	238,843 33	1 7/8 per cent.	5 cents per lb.	94,851 33
1836 - - - -	412,417 67	1 3/8 —	5 2/3 —	94,025 -
1837 - - - -	386,330 67	2/3 —	6 2/3 —	60,369 -
1838 - - - -	466,139 33	1 7/8 —	6 —	140,178 33
1839 - - - -	463,890 -	1 1/2 —	6 2/3 —	42,403 -
1840 - - - -	308,151 -	2 1/2 —	7 —	21,284 -
	Counties of *Demerara*, *Essequibo*, and *Berbice*.			
1841 - - - -	1,091,848 -	3 per cent -	9 cents per lb.	224,943 -

George Milleman, Financial Accountant.

N. B.—In 1839 three quarters per cent. was the rate of tax on produce for the general wants of the colony; the remaining three quarters per cent. was devoted exclusively to immigration purposes.

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Appendix III.

BRITISH GUIANA.

— No. 27. —

(No. 91.)

No. 27.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
9 May 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 9 May 1842.

AGREEABLY with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch, No. 30, dated 30th November 1841, I have the honour to forward a Return showing the centesimal proportions of mortality in the several classes of emigrants as compared, first with the whites, and second, with the blacks of the garrison, for the quarter ending the 31st March; it is satisfactory to find that even the white troops have presented so few casualties.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

Enclosure in No. 27.

Encl. in No. 27. COMPARATIVE RETURN of Mortality between the Troops in Garrison and the Undermentioned Classes of Emigrants, for the Quarter ending the 31st March 1842.

	Average Strength or Number.	Deaths.	Per Cent.
White Troops - - - - - -	389	5	1·28
Black Troops - - - - - -	284	3	1·06
Madeira Emigrants - - - - -	2,587	418	16·01
African - - - - - - -	955	6	0·63
Hill Coolies - - - - - -	328	1	0·3

(signed) *W. B. Wolseley,*
Assistant Government Secretary.

— No. 28. —

(No. 77.)

No. 28.
Governor Light to Lord Stanley.
19 April 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Demerara, 19 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward the special returns of the Sierra Leone emigrants, liberated Africans, Coolies, and Portuguese emigrants from Madeira, for the month of March.

Nothing can be more satisfactory than the condition of the three former, and there is an amelioration in the mortality of the Portuguese. Two deaths have occurred in the month of March amongst the liberated Africans.

The children captured off the Essequibo coast continue well.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Light.*

MONTHLY RETURN of EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS As to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (A.)—Upper.											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Helena - -	12	4	1	12	4	–	–	–	–	Extremely good -	- - Their wages are the same as the other labourers; namely, five bits for weeding, &c.; and for cane cutting and working in the boiling-house, 50 cents: their accommodation is in all respects extremely good. *George Ball,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (A.)—Lower Section.											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Enmore - -	11	2	2	11	–	–	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - Have earned $ 12 dollars last month.
Plantation Greenfield - -	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	- ditto - - -	- - Average wages 50 cents per day. *L. Macleod,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (B.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Montrose -	5	2	–	5	2	–	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - On all these estates the emigrants are very comfortably lodged, and are paid at the same rate as the other estate labourers, viz. 33 cents for the task of 7½ hours' weeding, 42 cents cutting canes, and 50 cents in the buildings, exclusive of medical attendance and medicines. On plantation Nonpareil the wages are 50 cents for cutting canes.
Plantation Chateau Margo	3	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Turkeyen -	4	3	1	4	3	1	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Cuming's Lodge	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Ogle - -	14	6	4	14	6	1	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Mon Repos -	2	2	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Vryhied's Lust -	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Nonpariel -	30	2	–	30	2	–	–	–	–	—	
Captured Africans.											
Plantation Cuming's Lodge	6	6	8	6	6	8	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - These labourers are well lodged and treated, and are allowed the same rate of wages as the other estate labourers, in proportion to the amount of work performed. They continue very healthy and contented. *Don. Maclennan,* Stip. Mag.
Plantation Success - -	1	12 boys	6 girls	1	12 boys	6 girls	–	–	–	—	
DISTRICT (C.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Little Diamond	24	5	5	24	5	5	–	–	–	- - The general state of health of these emigrants is very good, and the climate appears to agree with them.	- - The ordinary rate of wages is one-third of a dollar for about five hours' work; they are very well lodged, but appear very unsettled and anxious to move about to where they can get the most wages for the least work. *Thos. Coleman,* S. J. P.
Plantation Friendship -	6	2	3	6	2	3	–	–	–		

(*continued*)

MONTHLY RETURN of EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS As to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (C.)—Lower Division.											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Thomas - -	8	6	6	8	5	–	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - Wages vary from $\$\frac{1}{3}$ to $\$\frac{2}{3}$; the latter may daily be earned without extraordinary exertion. Lodgings are good.
Plantation Belair - -	1	1	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	ditto - - -	- - ditto.
											H. Heyland, Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (C.)											
Liberated Africans.											
Plantation Peter's Hall -	1	7	8	1	7	8	–	–	–	- These liberated Africans appear to enjoy very good health, and the climate agrees well with them.	- - The ordinary rate of wages is one-third of a dollar for about five hours' work, at which rate they can and do earn much more; they are exceedingly well lodged, rent free, and appear very happy and contented.
											Thos. Coleman, S. J. P.
DISTRICT (D.)											
Liberated Africans.											
Plantation Vreed-en-hoop -	17	8	6	6	5	5	–	–	–	Good.	*George Ross,* S. J. P.
DISTRICT (F.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Bank Hall - - -	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	- These emigrants enjoy very good health.	- - These two people are acommodated in a good cottage, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, benches, &c., and they earn $\$$ 10 per month.
											Walter Howard Ware, Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (G.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Hamburgh -	6	2	1	6	1	–	–	–	–	- - Very good; have never been sick.	- - Houses excellent; wages 11 dollars per month. Notwithstanding this, a great many have left for no other reason than the wish they express to return to Africa, and I have no doubt some of them have saved from 80 to 100 dollars; they are principally Kroomen; will often perform two tasks per day, in clearing lands from wood, bush, &c.
Plantation Bathsheba's Lust	7	7	9	6	5	9	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - From four to ten dollars per month, and when working in the buildings they have one meal a day given to them. Lodgings excellent.

MONTHLY RETURN of EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS As to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (G.)—*continued.*											
Captured Africans—continued.											
Plantation Zorg - -	7	1	1	3	–	1	1	–	–	- - Good, with the exception of sores, chigoes.	- - From four to six dollars per month, and when working in the buildings, one meal a day. Lodgings very good.
Plantation Hoff Van Aurick	4	3	11	4	3	10	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - From four to ten dollars per month, and a meal each day when working in the buildings. Lodgings exeellent. Two of the Africans, male, have been committed to gaol, for riotous conduct at plantation Huiste Dyren.
Plantation Huiste Dyren -	2	6	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - Four to six dollars, one meal per day when working at the buildings. Two of the Africans, male, committed to gaol for riotous conduct and stealing potatoes.–*Vide* Sheriff's Record.
1 April 1842.											*A. W. Zons,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (H.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Reliance - -	13	2	1	8	2	–	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - Lodged and paid as before reported.
Plantation Lima - -	6	3	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - ditto.
Plantation Walton Hall -	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	- - - -	- - ditto.
Plantation Windsor Castle	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	- - - -	- - The Sierra Leone immigrants have left this estate chiefly for Sparta.
Plantation Sparta - -	2	2	1	2	2	–	–	–	–		
Captured Africans.											
Plantation Reliance - -	5	5	9	3	3	7	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - These immigrants continue precisely as reported last month.
Plantation Richmond -	7	4	9	7	4	9	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - ditto.
African Children.											
Plantation Affiance - -	–	–	10	–	–	10	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - These children continue as reported last month; they appear to be doing well.
Plantation Mainstay -	–	–	29	–	–	29	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - Ditto; get fresh meat once a week. No system of instruction yet commenced here or at Affiance.
Plantation Richmond -	1	–	37	1	–	36	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - These continue as reported last month.
											J. A. Allen, Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (I.)											
Captured Africans.											
Plantation Cotton-tree -	–	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	Very good - -	33 cents per 7½ task-work in the field. Lodgings good.
Plantation Woodley Park -	1	–	2	1	–	2	–	–	–	- ditto.	
Plantation Waterloo - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		
Pl. Hope and Experiment -	7	3	14	7	2	8	1	–	–	- - Very good; a man of Blairmount died here of dysentery.	*A. Van Ryck de Groot,* Stip. Mag.
1 April 1842.											

(*continued*)

MONTHLY RETURN OF EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS As to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (K.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation New Forest -	7	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - These people are comfortably housed and kindly used, and receive wages as the other labourers, in proportion to the quantity of work performed by each.
Captured Africans.											
Plantation Providence -	1	2	9	1	2	9	–	–	–	Very good - -	- - These people are comfortably housed and kindly treated. They continue in exceedingly good health, and are daily improving in habits of industry and civilization.
Plantation Everton - -	7	6	10	7	6	10	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Friends - -	5	4	32	5	4	31	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Highbury -	8	3	9	8	3	9	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Blairmount -	3	4	12	3	4	12	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Balthyock -	5	3	9	5	3	9	–	–	–	—	
Plantation Lochaber - -	7	2	7	7	2	6	–	–	–	—	
Plantation New Forest -	9	7	15	9	7	15	–	–	–	—	
1 April 1842.											*C. H. Strutt,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (L.)											
Captured Africans.											
Plantation Mara - -	51	19	–	46	19	–	–	–	–	- - Excellent. Of the five not at work and in hospital, the whole are for slight sores.	- - The same as per last Return. The proprietors of the estate have just issued a suit of Sunday clothes to the whole, consisting of drill trowsers and jackets, &c.
Plantation Ma Retraite -	13	7	–	10	6	–	–	–	–	- - Excellent. The four in hospital (with one exception, who came to the estate in a very debilitated state) slight indisposition.	- - The same as per last Return.
Plantation Hanover - -	4	2	4	4	2	4	–	–	–	Excellent - -	As per last Return.
Plantation Standvastaghied	16	3	1	16	3	–	–	–	–	- - Excellent. There has been an increase on this estate since last return; the manager of Providence having been sent to this estate, nine Africans followed him to this location.	As per last Return.
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Mara - -	8	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	Excellent - -	- - The same as other labourers, one guilder p' diem: lodgings in new cottages.
											W. J. Sandiford, Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (M.)											
Sierra Leone Emigrants.											
Plantation Canefield - -	6	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	Good - - -	- - The same ratio of wages to the work they do is given to these emigrants as to the other labourers on the estate. Their accommodation in every respect is good. These emigrants arrived by the Volunteer, the beginning of last month. They are contented and happy, and no perceptible alteration in their health has been effected by the change of country.
Plantation Prospect - -	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	—	

MONTHLY RETURN OF EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (M.) *Captured Africans.*											
Plantation Prospect - -	1	1	8	1	1	8	–	–	–	- - General state of health good.	- - The wages in the same ratio as to the other labourers on the estate. They are well lodged and treated, and appear to be contented, and their conduct is highly satisfactory.
Plantation Smithson's Place	–	1	3	–	1	3	–	–	–		
Plantation Canefield -	9	–	13	9	–	13	–	–	–		
Plantation Rose Hall -	4	4	14	4	4	14	–	–	–		
Plantation Reliance - -	2	–	8	2	–	8	–	–	–		
Plantation Goldstone Hall -	3	4	5	3	4	4	–	–	–	1 infant *.	
Plantation Albion - -	–	–	9	–	–	9	–	–	–		
Plantation Mary's Hope -	6	4	20	6	4	19	–	–	–	1 infant. *	
Plantation Eliza and Mary	5	5	11	5	5	10	–	–	–	1 infant. *	* These are supposed to be births; the district is too distant to ascertain this for some days to come.
Plantation Skeldon - -	13	6	10	13	6	10	–	–	–		
Difference in this month's Return from the last:											
Pl. Smithson's Place - -	1	1	2	left for Pl. Lochaber.							*W. J. Brittain,* Stip. Mag.

MONTHLY RETURN of PORTUGUESE AND MADEIRA EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842.

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (B.)—Upper. *Portuguese Emigrants.*											
Plantation Fellowship -	12	12	10	11	10	3	–	1	–	Good - - - - -	- - Their wages are from 42 to 33 cents per diem; their lodgings tolerably good. Men, 33 cents; the woman who is employed in working clothes, four dollars per month, and the child 16 cents per diem; the accommodation is extremely good.
Plantation Supply -	4	1	2	3	1	1	–	–	1	- Good, with the exception of one of the men, who, however, is now convalescent.	
Plantation Cane Grove	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	Died of small pox.	
Plantation Melville -	–	–	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	Good - - - - -	- - These three boys, the eldest about 14, are the survivors of 12, who were located on this estate a few months ago; they are taken the greatest care of, to which indeed their recovery is to be attributed, and receive their food from the manager's own table; their lodging is excellent, and they have four dollars per month wages. *George Ball,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (A.)—Lower. *Madeira Emigrants.*											
Plantation Greenfield -	7	7	4	7	7	–	1	–	1	Very good - - - -	- - Have been employed at light work; provisions have been given, and other indulgences granted; wages from 24 to 33 cents.
Plantation Clonbrock -	20	12	21	20	12	7	–	–	–	Have been very healthy -	- - These people are similarly situated, and are receiving same rate of wages.
Plantation Enterprise	16	8	23	16	8	5	–	–	–	Ditto - - - - -	- - Receive allowance of provisions; men earn 34 cents., women 25 cents., and boys and girls 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents. All these labourers are working cheerfully, and appear to be quite satisfied. *J. MacLeod,* Stip. Mag.

MONTHLY RETURN OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS As to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (B.)										On Lusignan and Annandale the Portuguese continue to suffer much from intermittent fever, and consequent debility. The survivors of those brought on these two estates have nearly all left. On the other four estates the Portuguese have enjoyed good health, subject to occasional slight sickness.	All the Portuguese labourers are well lodged, supplied with medical attendance, medicines, nurses in sickness, and whatever nourishments may be ordered by the doctors; their wages are 33 cts. for the task of 7 ½ hours in weeding; 42 cents for cutting canes, and 50 cents in the buildings. On Lusignan and Annandale 42 cents are allowed for weeding. *Don. Maclennan,* Stip. Mag.
Plantation Lusignan -	2	–	3	1	–	2	1	2	–		
Plantation Annandale	4	3	1	4	3	–	–	–	–		
Plantation Success -	9	7	9	6	3	2	–	–	–		
Plantation Resouvenir	2	1	–	2	1	–	–	–	–		
Plantation Mon Repos	12	12	6	12	12	–	–	1	1		
Pl. La Bonne Intention	34	21	14	24	15	7	–	–	–		
DISTRICT (C.)—Lower Division:											
Plantation La Penitence	90	78	107	41	9	24	2	1	1	Better than usual - -	- - Wages vary from 33 cts. to 66, according to the work. The lodgings are good.
Plantation Belair -	6	5	3	6	2	–	–	–	–	Good - - - - -	- - - ditto. *H. Heyland,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (C.)											
Pl. Rome and Houston	102	82	104	82	50	53	–	2	2	The general state of their health is decidedly good, and has very much improved; and were they a little more careful and attentive to each other, and particularly to their children, very few deaths would occur.	The ordinary wages are one-third of a dollar for about five hours' work, and they make a great deal of money by cutting and selling grass. They are all very comfortably lodged. *Thomas Coleman,* Stip. Mag.
Plantation Raimveld -	65	57	26	47	37	7	–	2	1		
Plantation Providence	17	12	9	10	6	–	–	–	–		
Plantation Farm -	6	5	10	6	5	10	–	1			
Plantation Peter's Hall	10	7	7	10	7	7	–	–	–		
Plantn Garden of Eden	2	2	4	2	2	3	–	–	–		
Plantation Sage Pond	11	1	–	11	–	–	–	–	–		
Plantation Vrissengen	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–		
Plantn Little Diamond	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–		
Plantation Friendship	1	2	1	1	2	1	–	–	–		
DISTRICT (D.)											
Plantation Toevlugh -	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	- - The same bad health has continued, and the survivors have left the estate, with the exception of two children.	I have no additional remarks to make under this head.
Plantation Nismes -	16	16	21	10	16	4	–	–	4	- - Indifferent; they have suffered chiefly from agues and dropsy.	
Plantation Lagrange -	10	14	21	10	14	9	–	–	1	- - Very indifferent; they have suffered chiefly from agues and sores, the latter, in many cases, brought on by chigoes.	
Plantn Tenez Ferme -	5	4	2	5	2	1	–	–	–	Indifferent.	
Plantation Schoonord -	24	19	24	16	3	6	5	3	4	- - Though twelve deaths have occurred during last month, the health of the survivors is rather improving.	
Pl. Klein Pouderagen	1	–	11	1	–	11	–	–	–	- - Good, with the exception of sores from chigoes.	
Plantn Vreed-en-hoop	16	10	7	10	5	–	–	1	–	Middling.	
Plantn Goed Fortuin -	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	Good.	*George Ross,* Stip. Mag.

MONTHLY RETURN of PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS As to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (E.)											
Plantation Zeelugt -	7	9	6	5	4	3	–	–	–	Pretty good - - -	The wages paid to the Portuguese emigrants are the same as paid to other labourers on estates, and their lodgings are good. On several estates, particularly on those on which a considerable number are located, the services of the Portuguese are highly appreciated. The greater part of the survivors being now seasoned to the change of climate, and having acquired habits of greater cleanliness, I would fain hope that future returns will show a continued decrease (the decrease in last month has been great) of mortality. On many estates medicines and medical attendance are not gratuitously supplied to the generality of the labourers; but have all along been and continue to be gratuitously furnished to immigrants. *J. O. Lockhart Mure*, S. J. P.
Pl[n] Meten Meerzorg -	7	12	19	6	8	11	3	2	–	Latterly pretty good.	
Plantation Zeeberg -	–	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	Very good.	
Plantation Uitvlugt -	14	14	38	14	12	32	–	1	–	Pretty good.	
Pl[n] Vrees-en-Hoop -	32	23	23	26	15	10	1	1	–	Much improved.	
Plantation Edinburgh	30	19	22	15	11	2	–	–	–	- - Frequent cases of fever and ague.	
Pl[n] Anna Catharina -	1	2	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	Good.	
Plantation Cornelia Ida	12	12	32	10	11	10	–	–	–	Very good.	
Plantation Hague -	11	7	29	6	3	14	1	–	–	Much improved.	
Plantation Blankenburg	4	4	3	3	2	2	–	–	–	Indifferent.	
Pl[n] Nouvelle Flandres	6	3	5	6	3	3	–	–	–	Good.	
Plantation Best - -	11	20	16	10	17	16	1	–	–	Good.	
DISTRICT (F.)											
Plantation Blenheim -	17	8	15	15	6	1	1	1	–	- - These emigrants, with a few exceptions, are enjoying good health.	- - These people are accommodated in a comfortable cottage, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, and benches. When labouring continously they earn $ 10 per month.
Plantation Friendship	1	1	4	1	1	1	–	–	–	- - These emigrants are very healthy.	- - These people are accommodated very comfortably. The man and woman earn each $ 8 per month, the boy $ 4.
Plantation Sarah -	–	2	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	Very healthy - - -	- - These two women are employed as domestics, at $ 8 per month each.
Plantation Meerzorg -	16	13	13	12	10	18	–	–	–	- - These emigrants are at present very healthy.	- - These people are at present accommodated in a large building formerly used as an estate's hospital. When working continuously, they earn 8 dollars per month.
Plantation Caledonia -	27	20	28	20	15	8	–	–	–	- - These emigrants are now enjoying good health.	- - They are accommodated in good cottages, and when at work earn from 6 to 8 dollars per month.
Plantation Zelandia -	7	2	–	7	1	–	–	–	–	These emigrants are healthy	- - These people are accommodated in a good cottage; and when at work they earn from 8 to 10 dols. p' month.
Plantation New Bendorff	8	9	6	8	7	2	–	1	–	- - These emigrants are at present healthy.	- - The accommodation upon this estate for emigrants is very good. Those at work earn from 6 to 8 dollars per month.
Plantation Endeavour	6	8	8	4	3	2	1	–	1	- - A few of these emigrants still continue sickly.	- - These people are accommodated in indifferent cottages, supplied with beds, bedding, tables, &c. Those at work earn 6 dollars per month.
Plantation Belle Plaine	5	4	4	3	2	1	–	–	1	- - A few of these emigrants still continue sickly.	- - The accommodation upon this estate is very good. Those emigrants who are working earn 6 dollars per month. *Walter Howard Ware*, Stip. Mag.

(*continued*)

MONTHLY RETURN OF EMIGRANTS, 1 April 1842—*continued.*

LOCATION.	Total Number.			At Work.			Mortality in the last Month.			General State of their Health.	REMARKS as to Wages, Lodgings, &c.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.		
DISTRICT (G.)											
Portuguese Emigrants.											
Plⁿ Ondorneming -	6	2	9	6	2	7	–	1	–	Very good - - -	- - From 4 to 8 dollars per month. Houses excellent.
Plantation Aurora -	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	1	Convalescent - - -	- - Lodged in the manager's house. These children are orphans.
Plantation Good Intent	–	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	- - Three in good health, and three convalescent.	- - These children are orphans; are lodged and taken care of by the manager. *A. W. Gors,* Stip. Mag.
DISTRICT (H.)											
Teynmouth Manor -	12	7	8	12	4	3	–	–	–	Good - - - -	- No variation whatever has taken place since the Report of last month, with regard to the lodging, wages, &c. of the Portuguese. The health of these people appears latterly to have much improved. - - No recent Return received from Cabacaboorie. *J. A. Allen,* Stip. Mag.
Mainstay - - -	7	4	9	4	3	5	–	–	–	—	
Anna Regina - -	5	4	13	5	4	8	–	–	–	—	
Richmond - - -	21	17	17	11	10	10	–	–	–	—	
La Belle Alliance -	14	4	4	9	2	–	1	–	–	—	
Sparta - - -	24	15	24	3	6	8	1	–	2	Middling.	
Windsor Castle - -	6	6	3	6	6	1	–	–	2	Good.	
Better Success - -	8	5	16	8	4	5	–	–	–	—	
Cabacaboorie (Pomeroon River).	5	2	5	5	2	1	–	–	–	—	
DISTRICT (M.)											
Plⁿ Eliza & Mary -	10	8	19	10	8	9	1	–	–	10 infants - - - All were in good health up to the end of March.	- The same wages are paid to these emigrants as to the other labourers on the estate. Their lodging is good, and every care is taken of them. They receive allowances of food from the estate for a time, as the doctor will only allow them to do half work for the present. They are a better class than former importations, having been accustomed to field labour. Great expectations are formed of them. *W. J. Brittain,* Stip. Mag.
Plantation Skeldon -	14	9	20	14	9	13	–	–	–	7 infants. All now, on either estate, are in good health. Those of the old set, who came in November last, who could not or would not work, returned in last month to New Amsterdam.	
Difference in this Month's Return from the last:											
	6	1	3	- Left Eliza & Mary in March.							
	1	–	–	- Drowned on ditto in ditto.							
	10	7	19	- Arrived on ditto in ditto, by the brigantine Kentucky, from Madeira.							
	2	1	2	- Left Skeldon in March.							
	10	7	15	- Arrived on ditto in ditto, by brigantine Kentucky.							

No. 29.
Extract Despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, 31 May 1842.

— No. 29. —

(No. 96.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Light* to Lord *Stanley*.

Government House, Demerara, 31 May 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of an extract from a letter written by Dr. Ranken, one of the colonial section of the Court of Policy, to a neighbouring proprietor, on the subject of the advantages he has derived, and expects to derive, from the establishment of free settlements in the neighbourhood of estates.

This extract was given to me with full liberty to make use of it in any way I chose.

EXTRACT from a LETTER of Dr. *W. Ranken*, Proprietor of the Golden Grove Sugar Estate, to *J. P. Osborn*, Esq. of Plantation Covent Garden, dated 23 May 1842.

OF the advantage of selling waste lands, I can speak with all the confidence of experience. I have established a village of freeholders (as you know), the inhabitants of which being upwards of 250, afford me a never-failing supply of labour, and (which has surprised me, I confess) more continuous labour than I derive from the labourers settled on the estate in the usual manner. In 1841 I could not muster more than 30 people. Since January last, at which time, their houses being finished, they settled, I have an average of 65, and this day there are 82 in the field. They are gradually increasing, and as the necessary consequence, my cultivation is extending in a corresponding ratio. I have a body of men constantly taking in new land, and in four months I have taken into cane cultivation 24 acres, and plantains 21. Next year I have every reason to expect more than double the quantity of sugar I have made in any year for the last five.

(signed) *W. Ranken.*

IV.—ST. LUCIA.

Appendix IV.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 1.
Despatch from Gov. Sir Charles E. Grey to Lord Stanley. 18 April 1842.

Despatch. 15 Feb. 1842, No. 81. With 4 Reports.

Despatch. 19 Mar. 1842, No. 92. With 5 Reports.

— No. 1. —

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the R' ht hon. Sir *Charles E. Grey* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, 18 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates of St. Lucia, for the months of January and February, together with copies of Colonel Graydon's despatches, which accompanied them.

The Reports do not fully comply with the requisitions of Lord John Russell's despatch of the 22d April 1841; but your Lordship will have pleasure in observing, that, as far as they go, they are in most respects favourable.

They confirm the statement which is generally made of the inoffensive disposition of the negro population, and that there is a perceptible, though slow, growth of industrious habits, and an increased independence without an abuse of it. That loathing of agricultural labour, which survived the extinction of slavery, is stated, by one of the magistrates, to be undergoing some alteration.

The rate of wages is very unsettled, varying from 8 *d.* to 1 *s.* 3 *d.*, and at some seasons to 2 *s.* a day; but much of this difference would perhaps be explained, if it were possible to have an account, in each case, of the allowances which are made, in addition to money wages. The system of giving to the labourer one-half or one-third of the gross produce, which attracted your Lordship's attention in the preceding Report of the Fourth District, by Mr. Colquhoun, appears to be spreading; and, as a means of stimulating the industry of the labourer, where a system of money wages is not yet established, and of creating a community of interest and feeling between the proprietor and labourer, it seems to deserve some encouragement. But it will not finally answer the great purposes of improvement, nor even that of making and maintaining country roads, which seem to be so much required. It is satisfactory, therefore, to perceive that money wages, without allowances, are also becoming more general; and I believe I may state that, wherever these are adopted, the labourer is better off, and the employer, on the whole, pays less than under any other system.

On that part of Mr. Drysdale's Report for January, of the First District, which recommends a repeal of the existing law against stray cattle and stock, I have to remark, that it is a subject of first-rate importance in the rural economy of all the Windward Islands, and requires to be treated with great deliberation and resolution. One of the main difficulties which a landlord has to contend with, and one of the chief obstacles to profitable cultivation, to comfort, and to peace, is the habit which prevails amongst the negroes of keeping stock of all sorts, and to an indefinite amount, which they have no means of supplying with

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food, except by letting them stray into the adjoining grounds. It is very possible that the law of St. Lucia may be too severe; but a certain rigour of law against the mischief is required everywhere; and it is not too much to say, that if the laws on this head were heedlessly relaxed, a village might make the cultivation of the neighbouring districts almost impracticable.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Chas. Edw. Grey*, Governor.

(No. 81.)

Sir, Saint Lucia, 15 February 1842.

Nos. 1 to 4.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the Reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates for the month of January.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
Major-General Darling, &c.

(signed) *George Graydon*,
Lieutenant-Colonel administering the Government.

(True Copy.)
Felix Bedingfeld, Acting Private Secretary.

(1.)

Sir, Castries, First District, 3 February 1842.

IT is gratifying to report the continued quiet and orderly deportment of the labourers of this district throughout the past month.

No difficulty has been experienced by the planters in procuring a sufficiency of effective labourers to carry on with vigour the operations of the crop season. Great activity prevails over the district, and every effort is making to take advantage of the favourable weather for the manufacture of the large crop on the ground. Wages are generally paid at a rate varying from 1*s*. 3*d*. to 2*s*. sterling per diem.

The labourers in this district are very generally adopting the plan of hiring lands for the cultivation of their ground provisions. Many of them build houses on these lots, and withdraw their families from the estates whereon they were formerly located; thereby rendering themselves more independent and free from that control and superintendence inseparable from the negro yard of an estate, while they acquire a more perfect liberty to carry their labour to the best market, or the place of their choice, without the fear of reproach or the intimidation of being ejected from their homes.

On the 1st of August 1838, and for a considerable period subsequent to the Act of general Emancipation, the town of Castries was inundated with labourers from the country, flying from what they then considered the degrading toil of cane cultivation. The streets were thronged with idlers; and porters, jobbers, and watermen were in profusion. Such is no longer the case. Estates' work is no more viewed as derogatory, and the plantations in the vicinity of the town are abundantly supplied with labour of town residents; and the greater part of those who had come from a distance have now returned to their former abodes, there to resume their accustomed avocations on the properties to which they were formerly attached as apprenticed labourers.

Females claim no exemption from the usual work of an estate, and, indeed, are in many instances the foremost in setting the example of industry.

A good deal of sickness prevails amongst the labouring population at this moment, many of them suffering severely from measles, an epidemic now prevalent in the island.

I avail myself of this opportunity to bring under the notice of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the existing law of the colony respecting the capture of stray cattle, swine, and other stock. My object in so doing is to show that the law now in force is peculiarly oppressive on the labouring population, and that the provisions of the local law are diametrically opposed to the repeatedly expressed wish and decision of Her Majesty's Government.

On the 3d day of December 1840, an Ordinance "For preventing Nuisances arising from the trespass of Horses, Mules, and Cattle, and other Animals, within the towns and villages of Saint Lucia" was enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council, reducing the amount of capture money, diminishing the expense generally, and modifying the former usage in many important particulars.

This ordinance has been recently disallowed by Her Majesty, on the refusal of the Legislative Council to expunge or qualify the ninth clause, wherein it was enacted, "That whereas swine are considered destructive to the cultivation of the soil, all persons who may find them in their savanna or plantation grounds, are hereby authorised to kill them, and to take the head for their own use; and such persons shall not be bound to pay anything to the owner."

This ordinance having been so disallowed on the grounds of objection to the authorised killing of swine, and the appropriation of the head of the animal so destroyed, it becomes necessary to inquire how far the law reverted to is in accordance with the intentions and expressed desire of the Government; and should it be found to be more stringent and more opposed to the principle affording protection to the property of the emancipated labourer, it may then become a question, how long it should remain in force, or, in fact, if it should be considered as being in operation at all.

The

The law now acted upon is that extracted from the French "Code of Martinique," and it is therein declared, that a swine trespassing may be killed, and not only the head but the whole carcass taken possession of by the person so destroying the animal, without any compensation being due to its owner. It also enacts that poultry of every description may be likewise killed; and goats and kids are subject to the like fate of pigs and poultry.

The severity of the law, as it now is, weighs with undue force on the poor but industrious labourer, and is a check on his industry and means of acquiring additional comforts for his family, by the rearing of live stock on the land which he hires; perhaps from the very person who thus profits by the license to destroy his hog or his goat.

The immunity accorded by the law for the destruction of swine and other stock is also a fruitful source of continual discord, and not unfrequently is made available for the gratification of petty jealousy or base revenge between settlers whose lands are contiguous. Disputes arise daily as to the precise spot where the animal has been slaughtered; and not unfrequently has it been proved that the temptation afforded by the law has been an inducement to the trespass on the lands of an obnoxious neighbour.

The question resolves itself into this: The ordinance of 1840 having been considered as injurious to the rights of the labourer, and having been rejected accordingly, is it consistent with the views of the British Government, or is it compatible with the true principles of justice, that a more harsh and oppressive measure should be substituted?

It cannot be, that the humane intentions of Her Majesty's Government should be disregarded under the sanction of a law framed for the darkest days of slavery.

The sanction to kill and destroy the live stock raised by the labourers has long since been refused by the ministers for the colonies; and, as has been most judiciously remarked by his Lordship the Marquis of Normanby, on disallowing a similar ordinance in Trinidad, "it is superfluous to show by argument or illustration the injustice which might be done by the exercise of such powers."

I feel confident that a matter of such importance to the class whose protection is my more immediate duty, requires only to be represented to obtain the rectification of an abuse so manifestly injurious to their interests.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James V. Drysdale,*
Special Justice, First District.

The Honourable
H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(2.)

Sir, Castries, 3 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, administering the government, that there was no sitting of the court of petty sessions in the Second District, neither was any complaint preferred before me during the month of January.

No occurrence worth noticing has taken place since my last monthly report.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Johnston,*
Special Justice, Second District.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(3.)

Sir, Soufriere, 14 February 1842.

I AM happy in being able to report favourably of the Third District for the month just past. All the estates were in full activity, and labour moderately plentiful. The coffee properties completed the gathering of their crops, which have amply fulfilled all reasonable expectations. These properties, as I have before reported, are cultivated generally in shares by the labourers living thereon, and I have had much pleasure in observing that the quantities of coffee brought in the town of Soufriere by the labourers, for sale, have been extremely abundant; and that, consequently, both labourer and proprietor are very well contented with their net proceeds for this year at least. Sugar boiling has commenced throughout the district, and the sugar grower is as much pleased with the prospect of his present crop, as was the coffee planter with his last.

Nothing could have been more favourable than the weather which has blessed this district for some time past. I have had few complaints to arrange during the past month, and am happy to say that there is an increased disposition on the part of the labourer to enter into contracts of service for the year.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Chas. Bennett,*
Special Justice, Third District.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

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(4.)

Sir, Micoud, 1 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, that no material circumstance affecting the relations between the peasantry and proprietors has occurred in the Fifth District since the date of my last official report. The manufacture of sugar is progressing rapidly, and appearances indicate that the crop will be an excellent one, whilst there is no lack of preparation to add to the prosperity and resources of the colony in the next year.

The rates of wages have experienced no variation, excepting that necessarily involved by the manufacture of sugar, when the additional labour caused by what is technically called "spell work" enforces on the employer, and procures for the labourer, an increase of pay proportionate to the amount of service required.

A body of 21 European labourers, natives of France, of both sexes and all ages, has recently been established on Anse Canot Estate, in this district, by its proprietor, Mr. Beaucè, who personally accompanied them. Their residence in the colony has as yet been so short, that it would be premature to speak for the present or predict for the future. I cannot, however, deny myself the pleasure of remarking, that, on several occasions when I had the opportunity of visiting them, all appeared to me happy, contented, and comfortable. Their employer's treatment of them seemed most liberal and paternal, and should diseases incidental to tropical climates not intervene, I have no doubt of their ultimate prosperity. They consist of artizans, field and house labourers; and, in addition to lodging, grounds, and food, receive wages, varying according to their abilities, from 200 to 500 francs per annum. The field labourers are withdrawn from work at 10 o'clock A.M., to avoid exposure to the solar heat, and work again for two or three hours in the evening.

I have, &c.

Hon. H. H. Breen, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *A. C. H. Colquhoun.*

(True copy.)

Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(No. 92.)

Sir, St. Lucia, 19 March 1842.

Nos. 1 to 5.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the Reports of the Special Magistrates for the month of February.

I have, &c.

His Excellency The Right hon. Sir Charles E. Grey, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *George Graydon,* Lieut.-Colonel administering the Government.

(True copy.)

Felix Bedingfeld, Act. Private Secretary.

(1.)

Sir, Castries, First District, 4 March 1842.

GOOD order and industry prevail throughout this district.

The taking off the crop is proceeding briskly, and labour continues abundant, with no alteration in the rate of wages.

Two courts of petty sessions have been held in the course of the month of February; a report of the proceedings is herewith submitted for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.

The Honourable H. H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *James V. Drysdale,* Special Justice, First District.

At a Court of Petty Sessions, held at Castries, 5th February 1842.

Present: James V. Drysdale, James Johnston, special justices; Francois Lousteau, justice of the peace.

Ferdinand *v.* Charlery Salvigny.—For nonpayment of wages, amounting to 2*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* sterling. Judgment given by default for full amount.

Genvieve Selanie *v.* Theotiste Ste. Rose.—For nonpayment of wages, amounting to 7*s.* 9*d.* sterling. Judgment given for the sum of 5*s.* 5*d.* sterling.

George Hart *v.* William Richard.—For nonpayment of wages, amounting to 2*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* sterling. Judgment given for full amount.

Theotiste Morgan *v.* Richard.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 3*s.* sterling. Judgment given for amount.

Theotiste Morgan *v.* Lenclume.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 5*s.* sterling. Sentence in favour of complainant.

Widow

Widow Daubaignan *v.* Marie Sainte François.—Demand made for 2 *l.* 10 *s.* sterling, being sum due on goods entrusted her for sale on commission not accounted for. Judgment given for full amount.

Jean Paul *v.* Lucien.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 18 *s.* sterling. Demand reduced, and judgment given for the sum of 2 *s.*

Salvigny Charles *v.* Inspector of Police, F. de Bernard.—Demand for a sum of 10 *s.* for services performed as a hired assistant to the police constable Montout in collecting fines. The demand reduced to 6 *s.*; and as it appeared that the police constable Montout employed the complainant without authority, the court direct the amount to be deducted from his monthly salary.

Richard *v.* Charlery Salvigny.—For nonpayment of wages, amounting to 5 *l.* 12 *s.* sterling. Judgment by default for amount.

Lenclume *v.* Charlery Salvigny.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 5 *l.* 2 *s.* 5 *d.* sterling. Judgment by default for full amount.

Isidor *v.* Charlery Salvigny.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 8 *l.* 8 *s.* sterling. Judgment by default for amount.

Louisonne *v.* Mrs. Gros Zephirin.—Refusal to pay balance of wages as a domestic servant. Order given for payment of wages due, amounting to 4 *s.* 5 *d.* sterling.

Adée Ferguson *v.* Pierre Boisson.—Demand for wages, amounting to 2 *l.* 9 *s.* 3 *d.* sterling. Judgment given for the reduced sum of 1 *l.* 11 *s.* 3 *d.* sterling.

Honore Betty *v.* Joseph Lucien.—For nonpayment of balance due on a contract for building a house. The court having doubts as to their jurisdiction on the contract, refer the case for the opinion of the Honourable the Attorney-general.

Marcel *v.* Mathurin.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 12 *s.* 10 *d.* sterling. Judgment awarded for amount.

Jacob *v.* Gaskett.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 16 *s.* sterling. Judgment for full amount.

Edward Barnes *v.* Marquis.—For refusal to give up a flute entrusted him to repair. The Court order the flute to be produced in court, and delivered, on payment of expense of repair.

At a Court of Petty Sessions held at *Castries*, 18 February 1842.

Present, James V. Drysdale, James Johnston, Special Justices: William Brown, Justice of the Peace.

Lucien Charles *v.* Eugene Napoleon.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 3 *l.* 5 *s.* 7 *d.* sterling. Judgment awarded for amount.

Barry *v.* Lucien.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 18 *s.* sterling. Order given for payment of sum claimed.

François Gouston *v.* Captain Louis Marc.—Nonpayment of wages as a seaman. Judgment given for the sum of 2 *l.* 8 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling.

Gustave de Rougemont *v.* Thomas.—Absenting himself from his employ. Case dismissed.

Gabriel *v.* Captain Godfrey.—Refusal to pay the sum of 3 *l.* sterling for labour performed in furnishing ballast. Judgment awarded for the sum of 2 *l.* 5 *s.* sterling.

Jules *v.* Charlery Salvigny.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 2 *l.* 18 *s.* 11 *d.* sterling. Case postponed for further evidence.

Noel *v.* Charlery Salvigny.—Nonpayment for wages. Case postponed for further evidence.

Bibian *v.* Felix.—For assault. Parties reconciled.

(signed) *James V. Drysdale,*
Sp. Justice, First District.

(True copy.)

Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(2.)

Sir, Castries, 3 March 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, administering the government, that the following case was brought before the court of petty sessions in February:

B. Lacorbiniere *v.* Jean Eboe, Zacharie, labourers on Corinth Estate.—Destruction of property, by causing, through negligence, the loss of about 350 gallons of cane juice. Complaint proved.

Jean Eboe not attending, although duly summoned, sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Zacharie, to a pecuniary penalty of 15 *s.* sterling, for the benefit of the master, or 10 days' imprisonment without hard labour.

No other complaint, either from master or servant, was preferred during the month.

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The weather continues favourable, and the district in tranquillity.

No occurrence has taken place regarding the gaol or gaol discipline which calls for remark.

I have, &c.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

(signed) *James Johnston*,
Sp. Justice, Second District,
Inspector of Prisons.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(3.)

Sir, Soufriere, 12 March 1842.

LITTLE worthy of particular report has occurred during February in the Third District. The sugar estates have gone on prosperously during the month, and labour has been tolerably abundant. The rains, unusually copious at this time of the year, have somewhat retarded the manufacture of sugar; this disadvantage, however, has been more than counterbalanced by the opportunity afforded of making new plantations; since I have known the district I have not at a similar period seen so much fresh land holed and planted.

I cannot give so favourable an account of the coffee properties. The trees, from the excessive bearing of the last year, seem to have suffered; and I am sorry to add, that the labourers on these estates are rather backward in taking proper care of them. These estates, as I have before reported, are generally cultivated "in halves," and as the crop just gathered was an excellent one, and brought much ready money to the labourers, this neglect on their parts is the more unreasonable; and I have been obliged, in a few instances, to go amongst them and point out the folly and bad faith of such conduct. The little German settlement on the Belle Plaine estate is going on admirably, and it is a pleasure to witness the steady way in which these industrious people are bringing this property into a high state of cultivation. The Germans, one and all, are in excellent health and spirits, and are making money fast by the sale of the garden stuff, which they raise in abundance during their own time. Several of them have sent for friends and relatives now in Europe, and, I believe, at the return voyage of the Susan King (now loading for London) a party of these, the right sort of emigrants, may be expected. The Barbadian emigrants are likewise, I am glad to say, doing pretty well just now.

Disputes respect the maintenance and services of children are, I think, on the increase, and sometimes I find much difficulty in adjudicating between the reputed parents. Hitherto I have pretty generally succeeded in arranging matters, by talking and reasoning with the contending parties; but the want of a definite law on this subject in this colony is much felt. In the olden days of slavery and apprenticeship, the master's authority kept the labourer's family together.

I have, &c.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Chas. Bennett*,
Sp. Justice, Third District.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Acting Col. Secretary.

(4.)

Office of Stipendiary Magistrate, Vieux Fort,

Sir, Fourth District, 2 March 1842.

ON my assumption of office, I made it my duty to visit the district under my charge; and I am happy to report, that I found it generally in a state of peace and tranquillity, except a few trivial cases of complaint, in the quarter of Vieux Fort. The crops are in great activity, but they do not seem to correspond with the expectations of the planters as far as concerns the produce, owing to the great drought with which this quarter had been visited for some time; but the crops for the ensuing year present a most favourable aspect, in consequence of a few showers of rain which have moistened the earth, and the extension of the plantations.

The labourers on some of the estates are sufficient in number, but on other estates, such as the ——— belonging to ———, the ——— and ———, both the properties of ———, and the ———, the property of ———, they have not at present a sufficient number of labourers, so as to cause them to be in a regular state of cultivation. On the ——— estate, however, they have been recently augmented, on account of an increase of wages, which vary from 10 *d.* (which was the usual rate of wages) to 1 *s.* and 1 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling per diem.

The cause of a few labourers being located on the ——— estate arises from the difference of wages paid to the labourers by the proprietors, ——— that is, 8 *d.* sterling per day; whereas the rate of wages paid in this quarter is 1 *s.* to each field labourer, and 1 *s.* 8 *d.* to those employed at the sugar works, in crop time.

The limited number of labourers on the ——— and ——— estates, may be attributed to the frequent absence of the proprietor, whose presence is frequently required at ———, several estates being under his charge in that quarter, which absence, and a want of superintendence, necessarily creates an irregularity and suspension of labour on the part of the labourer, and a want of good order and discipline amongst them; but there has been a great

great improvement since the proprietor has felt the necessity of placing a person to represent him on the estates during his absence.

The conduct of the labourers in the quarter of Vieux Fort is generally good, and I can say that mutual confidence and good feeling, which is so very desirable, not only for the interest of the labouring population, but for the benefit of the whole proprietary body, exists generally between the two classes, with the exception of the late hour that the labourers turn out in the morning and after their meals, they being addicted to loiter in their huts; and it is with a little difficulty that they can be made to resume their duties. This is frequently a subject of complaint and discussion.

The Savanne Estate, at present the property of Charles de Lobel, and Amable Dreuil, since its administration has been confided to the latter, has arisen from that state of ruin into which it had hitherto been; the buildings have been repaired, and the crop, which has been neglected for several years, will soon commence.

All sorts of labour undertaken by the labourers, either in the field or otherwise, are generally performed by indentures, or contracts of service with the employer; at Vieux Fort it is frequently the practice to engage with the labourers to weed, or plant a patch of canes at a fixed price; but what is more common, and nearly adopted by all, is to allow the labourers certain pieces or portions of land, and the net produce is divided between the employer and employed, according as the terms of the contract may specify.

An inquest was held here on the 5th instant, on the body of a female named "Agatha;" according to the deposition of witnesses, the jury delivered a verdict, that the deceased died by the visitation of God. This is the only case of sudden death that occurred in this district since I took charge of it.

The only complaints worthy of noticing are these: a complaint made by the overseer of the Pointe Sable Estate, against a labourer, Mathurin, for having obstructed him in the execution of his duty, and assaulted him by striking him on the head, and throwing a stone at him, with an intent to do him some bodily harm; and the other for assault and battery, between two female labourers. In the first case, the offender has been sentenced to eight days' imprisonment, with hard labour; and in the second, the offender has been sentenced to a fine of 4*s.* sterling.

The quarter of Laborie, which forms part of this district, is not in such a state of tranquillity as Vieux Fort. The inhabitants of this village are naturally given to strife, and fond of broils and quarrels; there is little activity, and no emulation amongst them.

The Pial and Saphir Estates, both united, belonging to the Roudier family, and leased to Mr. Prevoteau, are in a very flourishing state. An extensive crop is expected this year; but the two-thirds of the canes are cultivated by labourers for one-half or a third of the produce. Some misunderstanding took place between Mr. Prevoteau and his employed; but, through my interference, the parties have settled the matter, and they are now on amicable terms.

The Black Bay Park, Beauséjour and Balembouche Estates offer a tolerable crop this year. The Anse Noir, Moulezard, Degatiere, and Rivière Dorée, have suffered materially from the drought; but, notwithstanding that, on each of these estates the plantations for the future crop have greatly increased. In the quarter of Laborie the crop is in great progress, with the exception of ——— and the ———, the property of ———. All sorts of labour is paid daily, as at Vieux Fort. The ordinary wages are 1*s.* to field labourers, and 1*s.* 3*d.* sterling to those employed in the sugar works, &c.; but, on the Degatiere and Rivière Dorée Estates, such labour as can be undertaken by enterprise is performed by contract; and when the canes are cut and manufactured, the remuneration paid to the undertakers is 2*l.* 8*s.* sterling per hogshead, weighing from 14 cwt. to 15 cwt. nett.

Up to this moment the conduct of the labourers has been very satisfactory; they are generally industrious. The quarter abounds with provisions, extensive gardens of which are cultivated by them on the estates where they are located; some of them are in the habit of leasing land, on which they establish themselves, planting and cultivating the land, and reaping the fruits thereof.

I have received two complaints against three labourers on the Black Bay Estate, one for riot, and the other for stealing boards. I disposed of the first case by sentencing the two labourers to a fine of 4*s.* sterling each; the other case I referred to the Attorney-general. An assault of a grave nature was committed by two brothers, Boye and Bataille, both residing at Laborie, on the person of one Anselme. This case has also been referred to the Attorney-general.

I embrace this opportunity to state, for the information of his Excellency, that the roads in this quarter are in an abominable state. From the Piail River a very small portion has been repaired, and the rest is covered over with bush and heaps of stones, brought down by the ravines. Thus the passages and intercourse are obstructed. At some places, such as on the lands of the Piail and Saphir Estates, the bridges are in very bad order, and passengers are exposed to great danger. I call the attention of his Excellency to this particular part of my report, in order that his Excellency may be pleased to give such directions as to him may seem expedient.

I have, &c.

(signed) *A. D. Brossard,*
Sp. Justice, Fourth District.

To the Hon.
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(A true copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

Appendix IV.

ST. LUCIA.

(5.)

Sir, Vieux Fort, 1 March 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that during last month I have four times visited the different portions of the district placed under my superintendence; and although my Judicial Report is somewhat more heavy than usual, yet his Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon will be glad to learn that, on the whole, a very amicable understanding has prevailed during the month between employers and labourers; and that the taking off of crop proceeds steadily, with every prospect of favourable returns. The season has also tended not a little to advance agricultural operations for the crop of 1843. The system of planting canes in halves, which has proved so generally profitable and beneficial in the Fourth, has not hitherto prevailed to any extent in the Fifth District; but, conscious as I am of its good effects, no effort or advice of mine shall be wanting to impress its advantages on the minds of the planters and labourers. I have so often in previous Reports addressed you on this subject, that I need not here recapitulate what those advantages are.

I regret, so soon after my last Report, to have to record the painful circumstance, that five deaths have occurred amongst the 21 French and Savoyard labourers recently introduced into this district. When, in my Report of January, I mentioned their introduction, I was not aware that the estate selected for their location was one of the most sickly in the colony; but Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon is well aware that the unfortunate choice made in this instance by no means proves the inaptitude of much the greater portion of the island for the settlement of European labourers.

I have only had occasion to draw out one contract in this district between an employer and labourer; it was for annual service.

The following cases have come before me:

George Cotter, Fond Estate, *v.* Marie Claire.—Aggravated trespass. Case proved, and the defendant sentenced to a fine of 24 *s.* sterling.

George Cotter *v.* Catherine.—Trespass. Case proved. Defendant sentenced to pay 2 *s.* sterling.

Mr. Corbin, Troumassée, *v.* Alfred.—Trespass. Proved. Defendant fined 16 *s.* sterling.

Mr. Corbin *v.* Jean Rose.—Riotous, violent, and abusive conduct on the estate. Case proved. Defendant sentenced to ten days' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Clement, of Canelle, *v.* Benjamin.—For the same offence. Proved, and sentenced to the same penalty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. C. H. Colquhoun,*
Special Justice, Fifth District.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
&c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Acting Col. Secretary.

No. 2.
Despatch from Gov. Sir Geo. Grey to Lord Stanley, 3 May 1842.

— No. 2. —

(No. 15.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir *Charles E. Grey* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 3 May 1842.

Reports, 1 to 5. 11 April 1842. No. 98.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copies of the Reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates of St. Lucia for the month of March last, as received from Lieutenant-Colonel Graydon, administering the government of that colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Charles Edw. Grey,* Governor.

(No. 98.)

Sir, St. Lucia, 11 April 1842.

Nos. 1 to 5.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, copies of the Reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates for the month of March.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Graydon,*
Lieut.-Col. administering the Government.

His Excellency the Right Hon.
Sir Charles E. Grey, Governor General,
&c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)
Felix Bedingfeld, Acting Private Secretary.

(1.)

Sir, Castries, First District, 4 April 1842.

I HAVE to report the proceedings of two courts of petty sessions held in this district in the course of the past month.

At a court held at Castries 12th March 1842, before J. V. Drysdale, James Johnston, special justices, and Robert Vaughan, esq., justice of the peace:

Mathurine Augier *v.* Medard Levacher.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 8*s.* 10*d.* sterling. Judgment by default for amount.

Mathurine Augier *v.* Ferdinand Mahy.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 8*s.* 5*d.* sterling. Judgment by default for amount.

Seophie Innocent *v.* Raymond Battut.—Refused to pay wages of 8*s.* sterling. Judgment awarded for amount.

Sophie *v.* Titie.—For assault. Case dismissed as frivolous.

Sully Daubaignan *v.* Pierre Boisson.—Nonpayment of wages, 1 *l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* sterling. Order for payment of full amount claimed.

Jeanvier Nicholas *v.* Jean François.—For trespass and assault. Assault not proven. It appeared that the defendant hired land from complainant, that he had had notice to quit, and had not done so. The Court, considering that sufficient notice had not been given, dismiss the charge of trespass, and direct the defendant to occupy the land one month longer, and to reap his ground provisions, on his paying rent for the six months then due.

Frederic Charles *v.* Maximin, Jean François, *alias* Lapaille, Charles, Banjo, Dangatiere, and Madelaine, of the Perle Estate, Valley of Roseau.—For violent assault upon the person of complainant.

The Court, considering the gravity of the offence charged, that of a premeditated assault on the person of a labourer, a stranger or non-resident on the estate, made with a view of deterring strangers from employing themselves on the property, and having found four of the defendants guilty of the assault under aggravated and unjustifiable circumstances, pronounce the following judgment:

Maximin to pay a fine of 40*s.* sterling, or to undergo 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour. Jean François to pay a fine of 30*s.* sterling, or 10 days with hard labour. Banjo and Charles, sentenced to the same fine or imprisonment as Jean François. Charge against Dangatiere and Madelain dismissed not proven, the parties having been reprimanded and admonished as to their future conduct.

John Alexander *v.* Nelson Goddard.—Nonpayment of wages, amounting to 2 *l.* 4*s.* sterling. Judgment awarded for the reduced sum of 1 *l.* 4*s.* sterling.

At a court held at Castries 31st March 1842, before J. V. Drysdale, J. Johnston, special justices, and William Brown, esq., justice of the peace:

Prosper H. Piet *v.* Thosia.—Quitting her employ, and abstracting or not accounting for certain articles of household furniture entrusted her. Case dismissed not proven, and as being frivolous and vexatious.

G. de Rougement *v.* Villestein.—Improper detention of furniture given him to repair. The furniture directed to be restored forthwith, during sitting of the court.

Mederick de Rose *v.* Jacques Roblo.—Nonpayment of wages. Judgment by default for the sum of 18*s.* sterling.

Louis Colas *v.* Charles.—For assault. Case postponed for the audition of further evidence.

The only case tried before these courts deserving of special notice, is that of the labourers of the Perle Estate, of the Roseau Valley. The premeditated nature of the assault, committed on the person of a fellow labourer, and the motive by which the parties implicated in the conspiracy were incited to the commission of such a serious breach of the peace, did not escape the notice and severe animadversion of the Court, the members of which fully concurred in the expediency and justice of summary punishment, by the infliction of heavy fines, as above recorded.

Although considerable jealousy is evinced towards strangers seeking employ by the resident labourers on estates, yet it is rare to meet with a case of violence, such as was exhibited in the present instance; and I trust that the exemplary punishment imposed on the labourers of the Perle estate may prevent a recurrence of a similar disorder.

As a further indication of the determination to uphold the law and protect the rights of every individual labourer, I advised the manager of the estate to retain the services of the labourer "Frederick Charles," and thereby demonstrate to the resident labourers the folly of thus attempting to coerce free labour.

I am happy to say that I have so far succeeded, that the man "Frederick Charles" still continues to be employed on the property; and, to all appearance, a more harmonious and friendly feeling has been created between the parties.

The weather continues favourable both for cropping and the advancement of the plant canes for the ensuing year. No complaint of a deficiency of labourers, and wages have not varied from the rate stated in my last report.

From the dilapidated state of the several bridges, the roads throughout the greater portion of this district have become, I may almost say impracticable, most certainly not to be travelled on without much personal danger.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James V. Drysdale,*
Special Justice, First District.

(True copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Appendix IV.

ST. LUCIA.

(2.)

Sir, Castries, St. Lucia, 2 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency Colonel Graydon, that no complaint either by master or servant was preferred before me during the month of March, and no punishment inflicted: that the crops are in progress, the weather continues favourable, and the district remains in perfect tranquillity.

I have, &c.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *James Johnston,*
Stipendiary Magistrate, Second District.

(True Copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(3.)

Sir, Soufriere, 9 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to report that all has gone on well in the Third District during March last; and the various properties, especially those growing sugar, have presented a scene of unusual activity. Availing themselves of the favourable weather, the sugar-planters have pushed on cropping, and have at the same time exerted themselves greatly in making new plantations. In fact, I much fear that the labouring population of the district, although one of the strongest in the colony, will be inadequate for the agricultural wants of the coming season. There is evidently a tendency already to a rise in the price of labour, and I am certain that some of the estates, whereon there is not a sufficiency of resident labourers, will be compelled to abstract labour from their neighbours.

I have, &c.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Charles Bennett,*
Special Justice, Third District.

(True Copy.)
Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(4.)

Stipendiary Magistrate's Office, Fourth District,

Sir, Vieux Fort, 2 April 1842.

I HAVE much pleasure in acquainting you, for the information of the officer administering the government, that, in the district under my inspection, the conduct of the labouring population has been very commendable, and their behaviour has been marked with the indications of a people advancing rapidly towards a state of civilisation and morality; but, as regards labour, it is not in my power to give you so favourable a report as I did last month; yet it is gratifying to observe, that this is not a fault arising from unwillingness on the part of the peasantry to continue their work, nor from any bad feeling evinced by the employers, but from the circumstance that during the holy week, and such days as were consecrated to religious duties, the labourers all flocked to the different churches and chapels throughout the island.

I have no hesitation to believe that, now that the holidays are over, they will return to their employers' estates, and resume their work as usual.

The crops are in a progressive state, and the season has been very favourable for the manufacture of sugar.

It is with great satisfaction that I call his Excellency's attention to the diminution of offences in this district. The few cases which have appeared before me during the month are of a light character; they are as follows:

Charles Valery *v.* Richard Busby, manager of the Parc Estate.—Refusing to allow complainant to continue cultivating a piece of canes on the estate, which he had undertaken by the job. The parties, through my interference, came to an amicable arrangement.

Mathurin Leroche *v.* Coco.—Taking away a piece of timber from Leroche's, during his absence. The case was discharged, the defendant having satisfactorily proved that the timber in dispute was his property.

Jean Chambor *v.* Mark.—Throwing a bag of coffee on the leg of complainant, with intent to do him some bodily harm, whereby swelling immediately ensued. The case was proved, and Mark was sentenced to a fine of 12 *s.* sterling, in favour of Jean Chambor, together with the medical charges.

Adele Besson *v.* Charlery.—Trespassing on her lands, cutting down several stakes therefrom, without her consent. The defendant was convicted, and fined 3 *s.* 6 *d.* sterling, the estimated value of the stakes.

No other offences have come to my knowledge.

His

His Excellency will be able to form an opinion of the improvement which has recently taken place in the behaviour of the labouring population in my district, from my last and present report.

Since my nomination as road commissioner, I have not been able to issue any notice to the different proprietors and labourers, so as to cause the roads to be put in repair. I have thought it necessary to defer doing so until the return of the labourers on the several estates.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. de Brossard,*
Special Justice, Fourth District.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(True copy.)

Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

(5.)

Sir, Fifth District, St. Lucia, 1 April 1842.

SINCE the date of my last official report, I have the honour to inform you that the progress of agricultural affairs in the Fifth District has been steady, under the combined auspices of favourable weather and a sufficiency of labour, interrupted in some measure by the intervention of Easter week, a period when few labourers are willing to employ themselves, rather devoting it to the ordinances of their religion. In so far as the crop of this year has hitherto advanced, I see no reason to anticipate any deficiency in my district; on the contrary, my expectations, which have always been sanguine, will, I expect, be exceeded.

I am glad to bear my testimony to the uniform good conduct of the peasantry during the past month; and it is equally due to those in charge of estates that I should add that their conduct also has been alike temperate and judicious. My judicial report for the month, almost a blank, affords satisfactory evidence of this; nor, since assuming charge of the Fifth District, have I on any occasion found it necessary to hold a court of petty sessions, having been able individually to decide on all cases brought before me. It is, perhaps, however, necessary to explain that many trivial complaints are from time to time carried to me, of which, by reproof, conciliation, and advice, I am enabled amicably to dispose.

The rates of wages have experienced little or no variation from those quoted in former reports.

The injudicious system, so fertile in mischief, of enticing labourers from one estate to another, by the offer of higher, nay ruinous wages, is, I trust, on the decline, although I cannot congratulate myself on its extinction: by degrees I may hope for its disappearance. Nothing tends more to demoralise the peasantry than the disruption of ancient ties and local associations. To this matter I have alluded before; and it is galling to see such a practice prevail, when, by having a fair and equitable adjustment of wages established, and by cultivating one-third of the cane land in community of interests between proprietors and labourers, the expenses of cane culture would be reduced infinitely, the revenues of course increased, and a contented, independent peasantry located around. All this I do not despair ere long to see.

The severe fever from which the European labourers suffered so much during the month of February, has, I am glad to say, now disappeared; and I believe all whom it attacked, and who survived, are now convalescent.

The only judicial case I have to report is that of John of Dennery, for trespass on the lands of Fond D'Or Estate, on complaint of George Cotter, administrator. The complaint was proved, and defendant condemned to a fine of 3*l.* 4*s.* sterling.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. C. Colquhoun,*
Special Justice, Fifth District.

Hon. H. H. Breen,
Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

(True copy.)

Henry H. Breen, Act. Col. Secretary.

No. 3.
Despatch from Gov. Sir Charles E. Grey to Lord Stanley.
16 May 1842.

— No. 3. —

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir *Charles E. Grey* to Lord *Stanley.*

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, 16 May 1842.

I FORWARDED to the officer administering the government of St. Lucia a copy of your Lordship's despatch, St. Lucia, (No. 17) 26th January 1842; and I have now the honour to lay before your Lordship copies of Colonel Graydon's answer, and of a letter from Mr. Colquhoun to the colonial secretary of St. Lucia, containing his explanations of the plan of cultivation which was noticed in your Lordship's despatch.

For Lord Stanley's Despatch, 26 Jan. 1842, *vide* Papers relative to the West Indies, 1841-42, St. Lucia, presented by Command. 30 Apr. 1842. No. 109. 2 April 1842.

Appendix IV.

ST. LUCIA.

It would seem that the plan is commonly termed the cultivation of canes "in halves;" and, from Mr. Colquhoun's statement, it does not appear to have been adopted upon a large scale for the cultivation of whole estates, but to be applied, at present, only to the cultivation of small allotments, on which the labourers are enabled to employ those hour which are not included in their day's work, and that sixth day in the week, which the negro labourer likes to keep at his own disposal.

I am not sure that Mr. Colquhoun is accurate in supposing that the labourer is charged with one-half of the expenses attendant upon the manufacture of the sugar from the cane after it is cut; and I should rather think that the description given by Colonel Graydon, which your Lordship will find in that officer's general report of the state of the colony, transmitted by this mail, is the more accurate one, namely, that the labourer furnishes labour to the planter in exchange for the use of the land and machinery, the profits being divided between them.

It is principally this partnership in the profits that distinguishes the plan from one which prevails, to a certain extent, in this island, where I understand that it is not unusual to allow a labourer to occupy a small allotment of ground, on condition of his giving one day's labour in the week throughout the year to the proprietor, for each half acre which he occupies. This, at the calculation of two bits and a half, or a quarter dollar, as a day's wages, gives an annual rent to the proprietor at the rate of 26 dollars, or about five guineas sterling for an acre; and on these allotments the labourers frequently grow canes on their own account, which they are allowed upon easy terms to crush at the mill, and to boil in the boiling-house of the proprietor, and to "freight," as it is expressed, on his carriages to Bridge Town.

These and several other modes and devices of cultivation have their use at present in the West Indies, in reconciling the labourer to those agricultural toils which unhappily are associated with his recollections of slavery, and in creating mutual obligations, and some community of interest, between all the parties concerned in the cultivation of the same tracts of land.

The cultivation of canes "in halves" may, in some sort, also effect for the time that which has often been a favourite object with benevolent politicians, who have had to form or to superintend schemes for the cultivation of a territory, namely, that the labourers should get a portion of the rent. In India, Sir Thomas Munro, who had fewer delusions than most men, reconciled himself to the imposition of a rigid ryotwary system, by indulging in the belief that he would be able to establish an annual remission in favour of the cultivators, to the amount of 30 per cent. of the assessed land revenue.

Humboldt, in 1826, considered that one of "les objets les plus urgens de la législation coloniale" was, "donner aux esclaves une part dans le produit net pour les interesser à l'accroissement de la richesse agricole;" and the plans which he states in a note to have been contemplated in France by General Lafayette, and the Marechal de Castries and others, may perhaps account for the origin in St. Lucia of this practice, which is under your Lordship's consideration. See *Voyage aux Regions Equinoxiales.*

For my own part, I would say, that the feelings which give rise to such systems are deserving of encouragement, and that every facility should be allowed to them; but that the decisive and fatal objection against all attempts at establishing any of them by law, or taking them under the active protection of a government, is that they would require for their permanent existence a disinterestedness, or a scrupulous honesty, and a mutual confidence, which are never found to prevail generally, or durably, in the management of such concerns.

It would not be possible, upon any extensive scale, to make such annual settlements of the complicated expenses and incumbrances of West India estates, as to bring out the net profits in so clear and unquestionable a form, that the labourers should always be satisfied that they had got their stipulated share of them.

To me it seems, that the first object of those who desire the welfare of the labourer, ought everywhere to be, to secure him the money wages which his labour is worth, in an open market, and under a free and liberal government. This is strictly his right; but it is seldom in the whole history of the world that he has obtained it.

Undoubtedly there are also mighty differences in his condition, which result from the use which is made of the rent or product net of the territory on which it is his lot to toil. It is not, however, by assigning to him by law, or by agreement, any definite portion of this rent, that his condition has ever been practically and permanently improved, but by establishing systems of proprietary right, which lead by their consequences to a distribution and expenditure of rent, which diffuses benefits largely and widely amongst the labouring class. The British empire comprises almost all varieties of proprietary right, from the Indian system under which the Government is the universal landlord, to the system of the United Kingdom itself, in which, subject only to the sovereignty of the Crown in Parliament, the fee simple of the land, and the dominion over the whole rent, passes from one individual proprietor to another, in perpetual succession, by the law of descent or by devise.

Of all varieties of proprietary right those have been the most beneficial to the agricultural labourer, which have effected the largest appropriation of the rent to local purposes of improvement or enjoyment. The pervading misfortune in the West Indies, at present, is that, in substance, the "*dominium soli*" has to so large an extent passed into the hands of absent creditors of the estates, who neither have the habits of landlords, nor the duties of a government;

government; and that the rent goes to them to pay the interest of debts, instead of being spent wholly, or partially, within the limits or the neighbourhood of the territories in which it has accrued.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Charles Edward Grey,*
Governor.

(1.)

(No. 109.)

Sir, Saint Lucia, 30th April 1842.

In conformity with the instructions conveyed in my Lord Stanley's despatch of the 26th January 1842, No. 17, forwarded in your Excellency's despatch of the 14th March, No. 3, I have the honour to enclose herewith, for transmission to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonial department, copy of a report from Mr. Special Justice Colquhoun, relative to the practice adopted between managers and labourers in the Fourth District, of cultivating the land upon the principle of dividing the produce between the owner of the soil and the cultivator.

2 April 1842.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Graydon,*
Lieut.-Colonel administering the Government.

His Excellency
The Right Hon. Sir Charles E. Grey,
Governor-General.

(2.)

Sir, Castries, St. Lucia, 2d April 1842.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 29th ult. wherein, referring to my official report for the month of July 1841, on the state and prospects of the Fourth District, in which I had adverted to a practice in that quarter of cultivating canes in halves between proprietors and labourers, you desire me to furnish a detailed account of this plan for the information of Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Convinced as I am of the incalculable benefits likely to emanate from the more general adoption of the system in question, it is with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction I learn that the subject has attracted the attention of the Right hon. Lord Stanley, and I shall endeavour to the extent of my knowledge and humble abilities to furnish the required information.

During the era of slavery, the negro population naturally considered the cultivation of the sugar cane as degrading, because the majority of their class were enthralled to force its production for the exclusive benefit of those who held them in bondage, consequently, no emancipated negro could be persuaded to engage in the culture of the cane or manufacture of the sugar; hence arose the pro slavery cry, that sugar could never be produced by free labour, whilst the real cause of the emancipated negro's repugnance to cane cultivation was, that he considered it the symbol of servitude.

This idea prevailed during slavery and apprenticeship; in some degree it still exists; but that it is expiring, and that a better feeling supervenes, the system of cultivating canes in community of interest between proprietor and labourer sufficiently attests. Improvements are generally but slowly adopted, nor does the one in question form any exception; but, resting on its own merits, and sanctioned by the approval of Lord Stanley, I cannot doubt of its ultimate diffusion throughout the sugar colonies.

A few words will furnish a view of the mode in which proprietors and labourers cultivate canes in community. The ordinary labour performed on estates is seldom more than seven hours daily, not always so much. To those conversant with the extraordinary fertility of the West Indian Colonies, and the aptitude of the negro constitution to the most laborious physical exertions, even in that ardent climate, it will not seem surprising when I state that every industrious labourer has at his own disposal from three to four hours daily, besides the whole of Saturday. This space of spare time, with the labourers in the Fourth District, is generally disposed as follows:—

Heads of families, and other trustworthy effective labourers, apply to their employers on the estate where they are resident, to be allowed to cultivate certain lands, the quantity of each allotment to be fixed according to the means and circumstances of the proposed cultivators. I believe that not less than one acre is ever so cultivated, the amount being usually from one to six acres. It is always understood that these tenants, as I may call them (for they pay their rent in kind), are in all respects to be considered as ordinary labourers, bound to work daily at the usual rate of wages, as other workmen do with whom no such agreements may exist. The canes they plant are to be cultivated only on Saturdays and during extra hours, and they can not only do all this but attend to their own ground provisions besides. There is no peasant in the world so well off, so independent, so much his own master, as the industrious West Indian labourer. The arrangement is generally to this effect, that the labourer shall clear, hole, and plant the land himself, shall cultivate it properly until the canes arrive at maturity; then the proprietors become responsible for one-half of the expenses accruing subsequently, that is to say, the expense of cutting and carrying the canes, and manufacturing them into sugar, is equally divided between the proprietor of the

Appendix IV.

ST. LUCIA.

soil and the cultivator, the molasses drainage of the sugar being allowed to the former for use of stock, and tear and wear of machinery. The same agreement continues in force during subsequent years, so long as the canes continue to re-produce and give remunerative returns for the labour expended.

I trust the foregoing paragraph sufficiently explains the mode in which this system is made to operate; but to dilate on the benefit it confers, as well on labourers as on proprietors, would require an essay from my pen; yet, ere I conclude, I would briefly allude to one or two of these.

The proprietor by this system ensures to himself the constant residence on his property of steady industrious tenantry, with their families, on whose continuous labour, as they have themselves an interest in the welfare of the property, he may rely with certainty. A considerable portion of his estate is planted and upheld in cultivation without the slightest expense to himself. That cultivation is generally established in a most superior style of workmanship, certainly much superior to slovenly and careless labour performed for wages. The cultivator knows that his own interests are inseparable from those of the proprietor, and no effort is spared that attention, skill, and industry can bestow, to render the result profitable to both. The proprietor is exempted from all those heart-burning annoyances, from theft of canes and trespass of stock, which are such fertile sources of dispute between employers and labourers, and is able to greatly add to his crop, with diminished expenditure.

I need not enlarge on the advantages which accrue to the cultivator, they are too obvious to call for comment.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. C. Hillersdon Colquhoun,*
Special Justice, Fifth District.

(True copy.)
(signed) *Henry H. Breen,*
Acting Colonial Secretary.

(True copies.) *Felix Bedingfeld,*
Acting Private Secretary.

No. 4.
Extract of a Despatch from the Right Hon. Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley.
20 May 1842.

—No. 4.—

(No. 23.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *Charles E. Grey* to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Barbados, 20 May 1842.

No. 110, St. Lucia, April 30.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Colonel Graydon, comprising that officer's general Report of the colony of St. Lucia, which ought to have accompanied the Blue Book, and which was called for by your Lordship's despatch, St. Lucia, (No. 18.) January 26.

All other accounts which I have heard agree with Colonel Graydon's opinion of the physical capability and resources of St. Lucia, and with his favourable representation, also, of the manners and disposition of the lower orders; but I fear that the same want of homogeneity between the English and French races, and the difference of religion, and the state of the law, and the want of uniform parochial or district institutions, present here, as in Lower Canada, more obstacles to the influx and employment of English capital than are noticed in the Report.

Enclosure in No. 4.

(No. 110.)

Encl. in No. 4.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Graydon* to the Right Honourable Sir *Charles E. Grey*, dated St. Lucia, 30 April 1842.

On some of these estates, however, a more cheering prospect has opened by a practice recently adopted between the planter and labourer, of cultivating canes in halves, the latter furnishing labour to the planter in exchange for the use of the land and machinery, and the profits being divided between them. By this means, every individual on the estate is stimulated to industry by the prospect of present gain—one of the surest foundations of the wealth and prosperity of the colony, and which would soon extend itself, if the obstructions to which I have adverted did not mar its progress. Hence, the sugar crop on those estates last year, although the season was unusually dry, was one-half more abundant than it was for many years previously; and it is supposed that it will be double this year. As the preparation of the ground for canes answers also, at the same time, for raising ground provisions, the system not only enables the negro to raise sufficient for his own subsistence, but to sell a considerable extra quantity.

* * * * *

Commerce

Commerce is so intimately connected with agriculture on the sugar estates, that in considering the causes of their increase or diminution, it is difficult to separate them. There is one branch of commerce, however, that appears likely to spring out of the system above adverted to, of cultivating canes in halves, viz. the facility it affords the negro for exchanging the produce of his little sugar crop for other articles of foreign manufacture, and the negro has now the same advantages in commerce as (Bryan Edwards observes) the planter had in former days.

It affords me much gratification to be able to report that the best understanding appears to prevail between employers and labourers. Complaints are of infrequent occurrence, and the few that are preferred, being of a trivial nature, are generally amicably arranged by the intervention and advice of the special magistrates.

The crop for 1841 was a good average crop. It considerably exceeded that of 1840, and the crop of the current year, already far advanced, holds out a prospect of still greater increase. The rate of wages throughout the five districts of this island varied in 1841 from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 8 *d.* sterling.

Owing to the high wages and other advantages enjoyed by the St. Lucia labourers, few, if any, have emigrated to the other islands; and although the supply of labour is wholly inadequate to the demand, yet the work of the estates under cultivation has no where been arrested. On the other hand St. Lucia has gained but little by immigration from other quarters. There are about 15 Germans (males and females) employed on the Belleplaine (coffee estate), the property of Mr. Henry King. This settlement was established about four years ago, and other German families have since increased their numbers. These people appear to give every satisfaction to their employer, and from their industrious habits and steady conduct, cannot fail to prosper. The success of this establishment is mainly attributable to the liberality of Mr. King, and his kind treatment of the immigrants.

A small influx of Barbados labourers took place in August and September 1841; the number did not exceed 100. They are chiefly located on the estates of Messrs. Goodman & Todd, who have incurred considerable expense in having them conveyed to this island, as well as for their accommodation and comfort since their arrival. I am informed they are doing well, although they may not have realized the sanguine hopes entertained by their employers.

The only other immigrants that have settled amongst us are 21 French and Savoyard labourers, recently brought to this island by Mr. A. J. Beaucé, proprietor of the Anse Canot Estate, in the quarter of Dennery. They have suffered much from fever since their arrival, and three or four died of it, but the survivors are doing well. The Windward District of the island, in which Mr. Baucé's estate is situate, is not so well adapted for the establishment of immigrants as the other parts of the island generally.

The peasantry of St. Lucia are remarkable for their urbanity, mildness, and good humour. In common with those of the neighbouring (and once sister) colony of Martinique, they have preserved a taste for finery and dress, for which the inhabitants of the latter colony are so conspicuous. The trinkets and costly dresses which they here display during the festivals of the Catholic Church, and at their balls and "belairs," excite the surprise and admiration of strangers; and the amount of hard cash expended by them a few months ago, on the occasion of a visit from a company of equestrians, drew from the agent of the company the observation, that the labourers of St. Lucia were the most liberal in the West Indies. The equestrians realized in one week, in this comparatively limited community, the sum of about 700 *l.* sterling.

The records of the criminal court for the past year afford satisfactory evidence of a diminution in the amount of crime, and offences of every description are less frequent, and of a lighter character. As one of the principal causes of this happy result, I may advert to the more frequent marriages which take place between those labourers who, during slavery, lived together in open concubinage. Whilst the marriage state contributes to their independence and respectability, it affords them an opportunity, under the French laws in force in this colony, of legitimating their children, the offspring of previous intercourse.

The greatest drawback to the St. Lucia peasant is, the disadvantage he labours under in regard to education. His only resource is that furnished by the Mico schools; and although the exertions of the teachers are praiseworthy, and have generally been attended with success, still the resources of the institution, as applicable to the Roman-catholic community of St. Lucia, are by no means adequate to the wants of the population. In further elucidation of this circumstance, I beg leave to refer to my despatch of the 8th March 1841 (No. 5).

Appendix V.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 1.
Despatch from Governor Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley.
19 April 1842.

V.—ST. VINCENT.

— No. 1. —

(No. 4.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *Charles E. Grey* to Lord *Stanley*.

3.
1 January 1842.
14 January —
18 February —
2 March —
No. 10.

My Lord, Government House, Barbados, 19 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward the reports of the stipendiary magistrates of St. Vincent, for the preceding half year, together with a copy of the accompanying despatch of the Lieutenant-governor.

These reports coincide with most others in their representation of the more striking features of the character of the black population. The absence of all atrocious vices and malicious crimes; very good inclinations in many respects, but opposed by indolence, by a suspicious and violent cast of temper, vanity, sensuality, and a turn for pilfering.

Many of these faults are, doubtless, the relics of slavery, or may be traced even higher, to the African origin of the slave, and might be confidently expected to yield in time to the effects of better institutions and of good example.

It is stated indeed by these magistrates, as by others, that improvement has begun, and is now perceptibly going on, and there always has been a general disposition to submit to the forms and influence of religion, which is especially marked at present by the great increase of marriages. As a practical measure, it seems to me, that this disposition would be more confirmed, and might be turned to better advantage, by the amelioration of parochial or local institutions, than in any other way; and amongst other things, by the immediate introduction of registers of births, marriages, and deaths. I should expect, that to a certain extent this would tend to impress more strongly a sense of the reality and of the obligations of marriage, and of the parental relation, and would lead to the disuse of the practice of burying the dead in unconsecrated ground, and without any funeral rites. In connexion with this, I wish to remark, that in the impending question of the importation of free labourers from the coast of Africa, sufficient consideration has not yet been given to the effects it will have on the social condition and progress towards improvement of the existing coloured classes. In one respect it might perhaps tend to elevate them, and give them a feeling of self respect and superiority; but although I am on the whole friendly to the plans of African immigration, I cannot but fear that a constant influx of numbers of both sexes, in a rude and almost savage state, must in some degree thwart and throw back the advances of small communities towards civilization and comfort.

The rate of wages, including provision grounds and allowances, is stated to amount in St. Vincent to about 20*l.* or 20 guineas sterling for the whole year, reckoning upon five working days in the week; and I consider it to be a remarkable proof of the superiority of the system of money wages without any allowances, that in several parts of Barbados, where the labourers are certainly much happier and more comfortable than they are represented to be in St. Vincent, two bits and a half, without allowances, are at present very fair wages for a day's work. This would amount to only 78 dollars in the year, reckoning six working days to the week. So that a better condition of life for the labourer, and a greater quantity of labour results from less money, and less trouble on the part of the employer.

It is to be regretted that the labourers in St. Vincent show so great a preference to the acquisition of fee simple instead of leaseholds, and it would be for the interest of proprietors that their labourers should be encouraged to rent their cottages by kind treatment, and by letting them have them on easy terms. One insuperable objection against an occupation of the land by proprietors in fee simple of very small tenements being, that there is no such annual accumulation of rent any where, or in any hands, as that the necessary supplies for local purposes, such as the conservation of the peace, the performance of religious rites, the making and repairing of roads and bridges, &c. may be easily drawn from it.

The remedy for squatting, which appears to me to be the most practicable, is the imposition of a local assessment, which might be converted afterwards into a rent, when larger proprietors should be so established on the district as to be capable of sustaining the local burdens.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Chas. Edw. Grey*, Governor.

Enclosures in No. 1.

(No. 10.)

1 January 1842.
14 January 1842.
18 February 1842.

Sir, Government-house, St. Vincent, 2 March 1842.

I DO myself the honour to forward to your Excellency for transmission to Her Majesty's Government, the first half yearly reports of the three stipendiary magistrates of this island, made in obedience to the Secretary of State's instruction of the 22d of April 1841, and with reference to the six questions by which that instruction was accompanied.

Your

Your Excellency will perceive that these reports furnish evidence that the labouring population of St. Vincent are about slowly to recover from the unsettled condition in which they were of necessity left by the great transition of 1838, and are at the same time beginning to exibit the virtues and character of a state of freedom. The report of Mr. Sutherland indicates a beginning improvement in their general conduct and demeanor, while that of Mr. Weight testifies to the greater regularity of their labour since the year 1840. This labour, however, is still very limited in its amount, and there can be no doubt, how desirable in every way is that immigration of labourers from Africa respecting which Mr. Polson expresses himself so strongly, and which is now looked forward to with anxiety by the whole body of proprietors.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
Major General Darling, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *R. Doherty*, Lieut.-Governor.

(True Copy.)

Felix Bedingfield, A. P. Secretary.

St. Vincent, 1 January 1842.

REPLIES to QUESTIONS to be Reported on by the Stipendiary Magistrates in the West Indies, for Year 1841.

I.—GENERAL CHARACTER AND CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY.

SINCE the termination of apprenticeship, there is in the moral character of the peasantry a decided change for the better in some respects; for instance, the system of concubinage has given way to a sense, not only of the importance of the marriage rite, but also of the obligations thereby imposed.

Number of marriages from 1826, when they originated amongst the peasantry of this district, till 1st August 1838, 320; the greater proportion solemnized during the apprenticeship, or four last years. From that period till August 1841, 774. They are aware of their responsibility in bringing up their children, also of their obligation to assist aged or destitute parents and relatives; feelings alien to a state of slavery. They cheerfully submit to all spiritual control; places of worship are remarkably well and regularly attended. The majority of the peasantry, however, still evince great violence of temper in their mutual intercourse, also a spirit of deception, insincerity, and great suspicion of every proposition not exhibiting an immediate personal advantage. I have no reason to suppose mortality on the increase, but cannot speak with certainty, or obtain authentic information on this point. On some estates there have been a great number of deaths. Offences of most frequent occurrence are, breach of contract for labour, petty theft and assault. The first is certainly of a less aggravated nature latterly. Police magistrates, paid by the colony, have been recently appointed to the several districts; their registers will for the future exhibit the nature and amount of crime; as yet they can be no criterion, many offences having been heretofore overlooked from necessity.

II.—RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEASANTRY AND PROPRIETORS.

Contracts for labour are from month to month; the labourer will not engage for a longer period. Tenancy, in consideration of payment of rent, is unknown in this district. The condition invariably implies the performance of labour, for the benefit of the proprietor, by husband, wife, and every grown male and female member of a family; in general, for five days weekly; in a very few instances for two days only, in which case the tenant erects his hut at his own expense. This latter system does not seem to have benefited any one; it has occasioned dissatisfaction in its neighbourhood. In addition to a cottage and portion of land rent free, the tenant receives wages for his labour, as will be stated after. To possess a freehold seems the peasant's ambition. No opportunity of doing so has occurred within this district. In the others, where they have done so, it does not appear to have increased their moral advantages or domestic comforts, but extended time is required to prove the justice of this conclusion.

Two proprietors have recently obtained some aid in the cultivation of their estates from tenants paying rent for land in the adjoining district. On this point I hope my next report will be more satisfactory.

III.—NEW INSTITUTIONS.

There are seven daily schools; five in connexion with the Church of England; two recently established under the Wesleyan missionaries: total number of pupils, 394. School fees, 3 *d.* sterling weekly for one child; 1 ½ *d.* each, if two or more in a family. The Church has four places of public worship, the Wesleyans three, within the district; a Sunday-school attached to each. Population of the district about 5,000.

Connected with the Church, there are two benefit or friendly societies, established 1st January 1841; three established by the Wesleyans a short time prior. The members number collectively 1,200. Each member pays 6 ¼ *d.* sterling per month, and obtains aid in old

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age, sickness, on the birth of a child born in wedlock. On the death of a member, 16*s.* 8*d.* sterling are given to his friends to assist in funeral expenses. These associations have been attended with the best effects; their laws exercise a minute control over the moral and social conduct of the members. The penalties consist in open rebuke at monthly general meetings, in fines, or in suspension. The amount of punishment is determined by the voice of the assembled members, whose decision is cheerfully submitted to by the persons offending. There are no savings banks; if established so as to obtain and merit the confidence of the peasantry, they would confer material general benefit.

IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation.

The supply of labour is irregular and alarmingly deficient. A very large increase would benefit the peasant as well as the proprietor; as parents, especially females, might then be released from continuous labour, which they now promise as a condition of tenancy, but only perform from compulsion. Every effort to effect this is now being made by the peasantry, but it is fully evident it cannot be granted by the proprietors under existing circumstances, and the cultivation of sugar continued.

A first-class labourer is paid 8*d.* sterling for a "task," which it has been proved he can faithfully perform, with ease to himself, in six hours. His chief remuneration, however, consists, in addition to this, in gratuitous medical attendance, the occupancy of a hut, or in most instances a comfortable cottage, and as much land as he chooses to cultivate; for this latter purpose he reserves one day in each week. It is a source of very great profit to the industrious, the peasantry having the exclusive supply of the market with poultry, goats, vegetables, &c. &c.

I should therefore describe a labourer on an estate as having medical attendance, a comfortable residence, the means of abundantly supplying himself and family with vegetable food, and realizing in cash for six hours' labour, at 8*d.*, for five days, weekly - - - - 3*s.* 4*d.*
Poultry and provisions - 4 2

7 6 sterling, or	£.19	– – annually.
	2	– – for extra labour during crop, if performed.
	£.21	– –

Moderate industry will insure this sum. An allowance of sugar and rum, gratis, is daily issued during the performance of heavy work and in wet weather.

The sugar crop for the year 1841 of this district of the island exceeded crop 1840 by 781,256 lbs., 48,070 gallons of molasses, and 3,240 lbs. of arrow root, over crop 1840; a deficiency in rum of 9,145 gallons. There is every probability that crop 1842 will again exceed to a like extent, or about 1,500 hogsheads on the crop of the island. Cultivation on every estate is greatly in advance of what it was at this period of last year. The weather has been remarkably favourable.

V.—Improvements and Discoveries.

On a few estates manual labour has been materially saved by the introduction of the plough and harrow; the advantage is so apparent that they will soon come into general use, the only obstacle now being the first outlay of money, which is considerable. Europeans fully answer as ploughmen and carters. Where sober and industrious, their example has materially influenced the peasantry. They are comfortable with a salary varying from 30*l.* to 50*l.* sterling, in addition to lodging, board, washing, and medical attendance. No improvement in cultivation, save that the soil is more carefully prepared and enriched than heretofore. No new manufacture.

VI.—State of Internal Traffic.

Woollens, formerly the dress of the peasantry, are now superseded by cottons and linens. The peasants' food is greatly improved. To the customary diet of salted fish and vegetables, beef, pork, and fresh fish are added; salted pork and hams are in great demand, likewise salted butter and lard to some extent.

All salted provisions are imported. The condition of the peasantry, especially as relates to the supply of their physical wants, is really enviable, but viewing their continued well-being as dependent on, and inseparable from the prosperity of the proprietors, I cannot conceal that the position of the latter is peculiarly disheartening. Sugar cultivation necessarily implies a large outlay of capital. The present scarcity of labour frequently frustrates the intention of the planter, obliging him to devote his attention solely to the manufacture of the present crop, to the serious injury of the ensuing; or to attend to the latter, and leave a portion of the former on the ground. The planter's distress is further aggravated, not by the dislike of children to follow agricultural pursuits, but by the repugnance on the part of their parents to permit them to do so. Children liberated under the Imperial Abolition Act, as under six years of age, on 1st August 1834, are in most instances at school, but in others

in

n utter idleness, acquiring habits alike hurtful to themselves and the community. Age, the infirmities of nature, acquirement of freeholds, and tenancies on payment of rent, are all causes gradually lessening the general stock of labour, and there is no source from whence to recruit. Again, colonial taxation, European invoices, salaries to Europeans, repair of buildings, erection of cottages, are heavy items of expenditure. They are unavoidable on the part of the proprietor, and cannot be materially reduced in the most adverse season.

(signed) *Robert Sutherland,*
Stipendiary Justice.

St. Vincent, 14 January 1842.

THE first REPORT of the Stipendiary Magistrate for the *Kingstown* and *Calliaqua* District, made pursuant to the Despatch of the Right honourable the Secretary for the Colonies, dated 22 April 1841.

I.—GENERAL CHARACTER AND CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY

1. *Changes since the dissolution of the Apprenticeship in their Manners, Habits, or Tastes.*

IN reporting on the general character and condition of the peasantry since the abrogation of the apprenticeship, I must premise, that not being in the West Indies at that time, it would be presumptuous in me to enter into any contrast between the two periods.

Marriages, I believe, have much increased, and it is deeply to be regretted that the obligations which the rite imposes are so little understood or practised. Separations are very frequent, and in a large number of cases where the parties do not separate, their lives are embittered, and quarrels and fights are continually occurring, by reason of one paramour, at the least, being kept by the husband. There is no law to enforce marital rights and duties, or to compel the maintenance of children, whether legitimate or illegitimate; and it would be delusion to expect that the peasantry, considering their former condition and habits, could, in the short space of three or four years, assume the moral and social duties of civilized life; and I feel it my incumbent duty to add, that without the aid of moderate measures, founded on the English laws, no great improvement will, or can be expected to take place; nor does it seem to me to be a hardship, that laws which are requisite to enforce the relative duties of a more civilized class, should be applied to the peasantry here, who, to a deplorable extent, are quite indifferent to the most common moral obligations.

As to the manners, tastes, and habits of the peasantry, I regret to say, without reference to the past, that generally they combine a swaggering independence with indolent habits; too often adding the vices of their former condition to those of the European, and exhibiting an unbounded appetite for outward display and sensual indulgences.

2. *Rate of Mortality.*

There are no means of ascertaining the rate of mortality. The labourers are buried on the estates on which they were located and died, and there is no registry kept; but I should not estimate the rate at a much greater average than that of Europe, considering that the climate is very favourable to children under the age of eight or ten years.

3. *The Nature and Frequency of Offences.*

Offences are on the increase, but the great majority of them are of a trifling nature; petty thefts by the labourers from each other, and from their employers; and assaults among themselves, almost uniformly arising from jealousy.

II.—RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEASANTRY AND THE PROPRIETORS.

1. *Conditions of Tenancy on Estates.*

The labourers in this district hold their houses and provision-grounds in the nature of tenants at will; so that the labour, contract, and tenancy end simultaneously.

2. *Progress of the Labourers in establishing themselves as Freeholders.*

The labourers are rapidly purchasing plots of land, and subdividing them in small allotments, frequently leaving little more than space enough for a house, and I understand that no further title or conveyance is given than a mere receipt for the purchase money; and in some cases, the party selling has only an equity of redemption, which, from the change in the value of property, is worthless. It may be expected, therefore, as these settlements are looked on with much jealousy, that these parties will ultimately be dispossessed.

3. *The rising up of new Hamlets and Villages.*

These are of three kinds :—

1. Freeholds before alluded to.
2. License to build a house, on rendering work one day per week, and
3. Squatting on the waste lands in the interior.

There are several of these settlements.

In the valley of Mariaqua, partly within my district, there are 1,200 souls located in rude cottages, and apparently doing little or nothing, mere drones, who might find constant employment and comfortable dwellings could they be induced to labour. In this case the land is rented in small quantities.

With respect to the mere squatter, it is deserving of consideration whether it can be of any advantage to him or the colony that the system should be continued. He is far removed from the reach of all restraint, example, and instruction, and may be expected in the ordinary course of events to fall back into semi-barbarism. It is evident what the result of that must be on the colony in the end. A bill passed the legislature some time since, giving summary jurisdiction to two magistrates, with regard to squatters on waste and Crown lands; it was not assented to, on the ground that magistrates ought not to be entrusted with power to judge of title. However true that may be in the abstract, it was overlooked that the question of title, even of a possessory nature, could not arise, seeing that none of these squatters had held against the Crown for more than three or four years.

3. *The effect which Squatting has upon the Supply of Labour.*

The absence of hunger and pain is real enjoyment to the negro; he needs little more; and it is consequently his study to exist with as little labour as possible. The genial and prolific nature of the climate is in his favour, and so long as he can he will live without exertion. It is evident, therefore, that the effect of squatting must be to lessen the supply of labour; if the change could be attributed to a love of independence and a desire to improve the condition and comforts of this class, then its effects on the supply of labour would be of much less importance, but unhappily that is not so; it seems an unmixed evil.

III.—New Institutions.

1. *Churches—Hospital.*

A new church in Georgetown has been opened within the last year; and a hospital at Kingstown is nearly ready for the reception of patients.

2. *Schools.*

The Mico schools have been closed; the children generally have gone to others, of which there are numbers supported by the Established Church, Roman-catholics, and Wesleyan Methodists.

I would beg humbly to submit as worthy of consideration, whether the Swiss system, that of industry and education combined, would not be better suited to the indolent habits of the negro, than the present and common mode.

3. *Savings Banks.*

None.

4. *Benefit Societies.*

Several are established and well conducted, under the care of the clergy.

IV.—State and Prospects of Cultivation.

1. *Supply of Labour.*

The supply of labour was at its minimum at the close of 1840, so far as I can ascertain; at that time its diminution amounted to 46 per cent. as compared to the supply at the end of the apprenticeship. This estimate is founded as well on the diminished supply of labour given per diem, as of the number of labourers; the employers have much to complain of; the average labour does not exceed seven hours a day instead of nine; and the loss of labour by wilful absence and skulking is beyond estimate; no kindness or liberality on the part of the master can induce greater exertion by the labourer; to be always complaining before a magistrate, would in the end depopulate the estate, and the master chooses therefore to submit to the dominancy of the labourer as the lesser evil; but labour is certainly being supplied more steadily and continuously, though at a slow rate.

2. *Rate of Wages.*

For the first or able-bodied gang the wages are $3 per month	39
House and provision-grounds, worth $1 per week	52
Extra at crop-time	8
Per annum	$99

Sterling, 20 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*

With

With medicine, and medical and surgical attendance, gratis; and also beverage in the field, and allowance of sugar and rum.

Other labourers are paid in proportion, and the aged and invalids are still supported.

3. *Produce of last Crop* (1841).

Sugar, 8,009 hogsheads; 372 tierces; 165 barrels; 14,008,730 lbs. Rum, 1,868 puncheons; 206,324 gallons. Molasses, 3,022 puncheons; 327,596 gallons: being a considerable increase on the crop of 1840.

4. *Promise of the next Crop.*

It is expected there will be an increase, but not to a great amount.

5. *Weather.*

The weather was propitious until the end of October, when a six weeks' untimely drought set in, which has materially injured the crop in this district, more so than in the others; since then the weather has again become favourable.

V.—Improvements and Discoveries.

I have nothing to remark under this head, except that the production of arrow-root is greatly on the increase.

VI.—State of Internal Traffic.

The internal traffic is carried on by hucksters, principally females, who hawk dry goods and salt provisions supplied them by the storekeepers of Kingstown, and are chiefly paid in money, but occasionally in ground provisions and poultry.

All which I humbly submit,

(signed) *J. Weight.*

To His Excellency Sir *Richard Doherty*, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

Sir Leeward District, St Vincent, 18 February 1842.

I have the honour, as stipendiary magistrate for the Leeward District, to make the following report to your Excellency, for the year 1841.

With regard to the General Character and Condition of the Peasantry.

I consider a great alteration has taken place outwardly in their habits and tastes since the apprenticeship. They live better; their houses are of a superior construction; they are better clothed, both whilst at work and on holidays. They are become aware of the benefit of appearing respectable in the eyes of one another. Their attendance at Divine worship continues to increase. Their conduct and behaviour on the Sabbath and holidays is uniformly most commendable. Their anxiety to enter into the marriage state is great, but I think the desire has been too eagerly fostered; few comprehend the reciprocal duties and obligations of that state, or the position they are placed in relatively to each other by the law. The endless appeals made to me by new-married people to dissolve the marriage, and their surprise that it is not in my power, prove this. Under these circumstances, marriage becomes a curse, not a blessing, and leads to more crimes than concubinage.

It is difficult, not having had a census taken formerly, to judge of the rate of mortality, but I think it considerably greater than during the apprenticeship. This arises from most of the estates having no regular medical attendant; the peasantry refusing to contribute anything to secure the services of a medical practitioner, or to go into the estate's hospital.

The offences are few, the thefts being generally of lumber exposed in the open air; stealing rum, sugar and canes. A great deal of pilfering is going on, but the culprit is rarely discovered.

The most numerous offences are assaults, but rarely attended with much violence.

The offences as between master and servant are, in nearly every case, from the servant absenting himself from his stipulated work, varying from one day to two weeks, and not working more than six or seven hours a day instead of nine.

As to the Relation between the Peasantry and the Proprietor.

The conditions of the tenancy on estates remain the same. The labourers have their houses and grounds free of rent; the latter consists of 70 feet square of yam ground, and as much land for other provisions as they require; they work the first five days in the week at 8 *d.* sterling per day; the term of hire is only for four weeks, and either party may dissolve the agreement at that time. If the employer turns away the labourer, the latter is allowed to return, cultivate and reap all his growing provisions. If the labourer leaves of his own volition, he reaps only the provisions that are ripe.

I consider this species of tenancy much better than charging rent. I was not formerly of that opinion, but experience and what I have heard of other islands have convinced me that it is so with our limited supply of labour.

Appendix V.

ST. VINCENT.

The labourers are inimical to yearly agreements, and the proprietors are generally anxious for them: I think both parties mistake their individual interest.

In this part of the island there are but few instances of labourers becoming freeholders for the purpose of cultivation, but there is a hamlet adjoining a village where about 40 small lots of land have been bought by artisans and fishermen for erecting houses.

The great falling off in the number of agricultural labourers has arisen from many becoming fishermen, from the carpenters and other tradesmen on estates refusing to do that species of agricultural labour they had been accustomed to do, but principally from the young people leaving the estate to reside in towns, the males to learn trades, the women needlework, &c., and in many instances from men quitting the estates, leaving their wives and children living on them, by that means reaping the provisions whilst they get higher wages in another quarter.

As regards New Institutions.

The number of members of the benefit society which I alluded to at length in a former report are increasing; the churches and schools are the same in number; the former are always well attended, but are not large enough for the population.

The number of scholars has also slightly increased.

A savings bank would be a great benefit, and I think it could be easily established in connexion with our local banks.

The State and Prospects of Cultivation.

The inadequate supply of labourers from the causes before adverted to, together with the general indolence of a people ignorant of want or deprivation, is the chief cause of the falling off of the crops, though unusually dry seasons have had an influence; I see no remedy but a large immigration of Africans or their descendants. Europeans are next to useless, even by way of example; nothing will save the island but a larger population, so that something like a competition to procure employment may arise.

With respect to the crop of last year, it was upwards of 2,000 hogsheads more than the previous year, and amounted to 8,309 hogsheads, and this with a dry season. It is almost impossible to foretel what crops an estate will make; the most experienced is often far out in his calculation; two or three weeks unexpected dry weather, or a heavy rain after a long drought, will make a most material difference. It is expected that there will be an increase this year of more than 1,000 hogsheads. For the crop of 1843 the weather is at present most favourable.

Improvements and Discoveries.

Cultivation has so far improved, that in former times they cultivated every acre of land that was practicable; no part laid fallow; a small portion was appropriated as a yam ground, the soil consequently became quite exhausted—now a considerable portion of the different estates have been from necessity in fallow; a large quantity of manure has been imported, and the planters see that the good cultivation of a small portion of land pays better than the slovenly cultivation of a larger number of acres.

I am sure property would improve if the landlord or tenant were to become resident, for he could act at once, without, as under the present pernicious system, the manager being obliged to refer to England for authority, and which, from the referee's ignorance of the utility of the demand, may either be procrastinated, refused, or even if granted, the necessary delay would materially decrease its benefit.

West India proprietors, taken as a body, are very loth to rent their estates; they consider it deprives them of the consequence of a landed proprietor; it is an idiosyncrasy difficult to account for, though greatly to be deplored.

On five or six estates British labourers have been sent out with ploughs and horses, but I am afraid the benefit does not repay the expense. The estates generally have saved labour by using a self-acting cane carriage to feed the mill and carry away the megass.

There has been no material improvements in the manufacture of sugar. The planters say they are averse from going to expense in improving the quality of their sugar, being fearful, if successful, it may be subjected to a higher rate of duty.

There has been a considerable quantity of land put lately into arrow-root cultivation. In my next report I shall be able to go fully into the subject.

Internal Traffic.

The peasantry rear yams, cassava, plantains and other ground provisions, for which they get large prices. They purchase clothing of all sorts and kinds; salt fish, salt pork, corn, meal, and rice, and at Christmas, hams. They also rear poultry and pigs, a portion of which they sell.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edwin Polson.*

VI.—BARBADOS.

—No. 1.—

(No. 12.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir *Charles E. Grey* to Lord *Stanley*.

Government-house, Barbados,
19 April 1842.

No. 1.
Despatch from Gov. Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley.
19 April 1842.

Reports, 1 to 12, 13 & 14. Letter & Summary, 15 April 1842.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward the reports furnished by the local magistrates of Barbados, for the period ending with the year 1841, together with a letter and tabular abstract from the special magistrates, who constitute the Assistant Court of Appeal, and to whom these reports were referred for examination.

The abstract is very accurate, but perhaps may leave an impression that the report from St. John's, of the state of manners, is more unfavourable than it really is; and both in that instance, and in the report of St. Lucy's parish, I consider that the statement has been in some degree affected by accidental circumstances.

In general the reports are highly favourable. Your Lordship will observe how much is justly attributed to the meritorious exertions of the clergy, and to the parishes being better provided with churches, chapels, and schools, than those of any other island. There are every where Friendly Societies, superintended by the parochial clergy, and a good understanding and a good feeling generally prevails between the labourer and his employer, and amongst the labourers themselves. It is a remarkable circumstance, and one of good augury, that the reports of Bridge Town and the neighbouring parish of St. Michael are at least as favourable as any other, so that there does not appear to be in Barbados any augmentation of crime from the population becoming more dense and crowded, which is more than proportionate to the augmented numbers.

There are no disputes between the employers and the labourers; and the latter are acquiring more and more the character of a small tenantry, and though there is an active desire amongst them to better their condition, they happily do not, in any great numbers, become proprietors in fee simple of small tenements.

Wages range from 20 to 30 cents a day; and when they are as low as 20 cents, some allowances may always be understood to be added.

In this island, which in many respects, and especially in climate and the goodness of its roads, possesses great advantages, the land, as long as the population could be sustained at its present amount, would always perhaps be capable of paying for the annual labour and skill, and the interest of the capital expended in the cultivation of it, and of leaving a considerable surplus of rent: but anything which should greatly affect the market for its exports, and lower the money value of its produce, would ruin many who have charges and claims upon land, and would make a general change of cultivation, and a reformation in the management of estates necessary and inevitable; and would thus plunge many other persons into difficulties, and would cast them upon their natural and personal resources; and although, I believe the enclosed reports to be faithfully made, and that they are very correct, I fear the pleasing tone which pervades almost all of them, must, to a certain extent, be attributed to the temporary and accidental circumstance of the prospect of the crop of 1843, being, almost beyond precedent, favourable.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Chas. Edw. Grey,*
Governor.

Enclosures in No. 1.

REPORTS of the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES of *Barbados*, on the state of their several Districts, in answer to the following questions, ordered to be made in my Lord John Russell's Despatch of the 22d of April 1841. General No. 11.

QUESTIONS.

Enclosures in No. 1.

1. A general character and condition of the peasantry. Noticing any changes observable since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, in their manners, habits, or tastes; in the rate of mortality; or in the nature and frequency of offences.

2. Relations between the peasantry and the proprietors. Adverting especially to the conditions of tenancy on estates; to the progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as

freeholders; to the rising up of new hamlets and villages; and the effect which these changes are supposed to have upon the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the colony.

3. New Institutions—as churches, schools, savings banks, benefit societies, &c.

4. State and prospects of cultivation. Noticing the supply of labour and the rate of wages; the produce of the last crop and the promise of the next, the weather, &c.

5. Improvements and discoveries. As for instance, any new machine by which labour is saved; any improved method of cultivation; any new manufacture, &c.

6. State of internal traffic. Noticing the sort of goods which are most in demand.

ANSWERS TO THE FOREGOING QUESTIONS.

No. 1.—*Parish of St. Philip.*

1. THE general character and condition of the labouring population have much improved since the dissolution of the apprenticeship system. They are daily becoming more regular in their avocations, and improved in their morals, more from practical experience that the reciprocal duties of employer and labourer are becoming daily better understood. The mortality of this district some months past was very awful, but principally amongst children and old people; that has now ceased, and I do not think the number of deaths beyond the average rate. The offences amongst the labouring population are chiefly composed of petty thefts and assaults; but those, I am happy to say, are daily decreasing, as will be seen by the fortnight Returns to the Assistant Court of Appeal. There are other offences which are not exactly cognizable before a magistrate, and are referred to the Court of Arbitration, which court always gives satisfaction to both parties, and is a great check to many immoral practices. One great proof of the decrease of crime, with regard to offences of a felonious nature, I feel much pleasure in having reference to on this occasion. The last calendar at the Court of Grand Sessions numbered about 15 persons from this parish, principally of the labouring population, while up to the present time, not one single case has been sent on to that court from this class of individuals; the only complaint being that of a discharged white soldier for housebreaking.

2. The reciprocal relations between the peasantry and the proprietors, as I before said, are daily getting better understood. Not one single complaint has been made against a labourer for the last six months for a breach of his contract, which is strong evidence of their improved condition and steady manner of performing their duties. Occasional disputes occur with the managers and labourers, by the former exacting from the latter a certain rent for absent days from labour, which naturally savours of compulsion; this can only be remedied by a general system of renting, allowing the labourer to apply his labour to the best advantage he can for himself; and I feel sanguine the day is not far distant when this will be the universal method adopted. There is but one opinion abroad respecting it, and that is, that sooner or later it must be done. Some few estates have tried it already, and the reports made by the respective managers are most favourable as to its complete success. I cannot as yet make any positive statement respecting the progress the labourers have made in establishing themselves as freeholders. They have in some instances purchased lands; but in my next replies I shall be able to give very authentic information, as the Franchise Bill will then, I trust, be in operation, and the registration list will be positive proof on this head. There are no new hamlets that I am aware of; every estate has its own village; and as soon as the renting system is adopted, every village will become a separate hamlet; and the supply of labour, I have no doubt, will be abundant for the cultivation of the staple product of the colony.

3. There are one church and four chapels, three public schools and several private ones, one friendly society, but no savings' banks.

4. Generally speaking, the estates are in a high state of cultivation, and the prospects of their being kept so equally good; the supply of labour fully equal to the demand, and the rate of wages from 20 to 25 cents per day. The number of hogsheads of sugar made in this parish last crop was about 1,700, nearly 2,500 below the average crop; but this deficiency is mainly to be attributed to the drought. The prospects are something better this crop, but still it must be far short of the usual quantity of sugar made, this year having been nearly as dry as the preceding one. There are great prospects for the crop of 1843, and if we have wet seasons, I have no doubt the island will make more sugar than ever it made in one year.

5. The only particular discovery and improvement that has taken place, is that by a Mr. O'Keefe of Jamaica, by which he agrees to increase to a great extent the quantity of rum on the different estates. In my next I shall be able to report more fully on this head, as by that time his plans will have been in complete operation. No new machine has been invented to save labour, but the plough is more extensively used than it used to be, and I trust ere long the use of machinery will be properly appreciated, as the present system of plantation management is very expensive, and there is no doubt the expenses would be much lessened

lessened by the application of brute force, instead of the manual labour now used in almost every department of agriculture.

6. The principal internal traffic is that of huckstering; the goods most in demand are the luxuries of life. The labourers are also much addicted to dress, and the love of it has greatly increased since freedom.

(signed) *Frederick Watts*,
Police Magistrate.

3 March 1842.

No. 2.—*Parish of St. Thomas.*

1. As I have already stated in a former report, that on commencing my magisterial duties there was a great disposition on the part of the labourers to wrangle and fight with each other, and also to quit the estate on which they were domiciled, and give their labour to other properties, just as they were actuated either by caprice or the hope of obtaining greater wages; yet three years' experience has enabled me to state that on these heads there has been a gradual and progressive improvement in their conduct; and it would give me great pleasure could I with propriety state, that their moral character had undergone any visible change for the better. Number of deaths in this parish from 1st August 1841 to 1st March 1842, 202; baptised from same period, 292; emigrated, 19.

2. The labourers are generally supplied with a good cottage and a certain proportion of land to each of them to plant, which they generally keep in the highest state of cultivation. They would no doubt be most happy to become freeholders had they the means of accomplishing that desirable object, as may be seen by the erection of a new village near the parish church by the labourers of Mount Witton plantation, under the will of their late master, Reynold Alleyne Elcock, esq. from whom was bequeathed to his labourers so large a sum as 7,053 *l.*; and which sum they have received since their freedom. I do not think the building of this village has had any material effect on the labour market, as the labourers have not totally withdrawn their labour from the estates, being able only to purchase small allotments of land, in no case exceeding two acres, and in many cases much less; and it may be observed that this bequest is the only one which has occurred in the island.

3. Under the head of new institutions, I am happy to observe that we have plenty of churches, chapels, and schools; and the accommodation is in all cases equal to the attendance. The friendly society in my district is in a most flourishing condition; the number of contributors to it being now over 700.

4. The high rate of wages has continued. Those persons, however, who are able to pay it can obtain plenty of labour, emigration having totally ceased in my district. The latter months of the last year (1841) were almost as could be desired, and I am happy to say, that the present year has commenced most favourably for the planting interest; the young crop at this time being the most promising we have had for several years past, and should the seasons continue, an abundant harvest may be reasonably anticipated. Sugar crop for 1841, 2,105 hogsheads.

5. The plough has not yet come into general use, nor have we any agricultural implements by the use of which manual labour can be saved. This is much to be regretted.

6. We have an abundance of shops scattered throughout this district, for the sale of dry and wet goods; and the labourers themselves furnish the market with lambs, pigs, poultry, &c., as they rear them in great numbers; indeed it is a matter of speculation how they contrive to support so many.

(signed) *J. Carew*,
Police Magistrate.

No. 3.—*Parish of Christ Church.*

1. In this parish the peasantry conduct themselves in a satisfactory manner; they pay proper respect to the laws and authorities, and they have much improved in their manners and habits since the dissolution of the apprenticeship. Mortality has increased amongst them, but not to an alarming extent. The offences charged against them are chiefly petty thefts, and minor breaches of the peace.

2. Labourers located on estates are provided with comfortable cottages, and a spot of land (about a quarter of an acre) rent free. Proprietors adopt the rent-free system as a retainer, in order to obtain the services of their labourers; should they refuse to work for the estates on which they are thus located, then rent is charged for each day they work elsewhere; but no charge of rent is made in case of sickness, or other excusable cause. The peasantry evince an anxious desire to become more independent in their domestic establishments, and those who have the means prefer erecting their own cottages on land which they rent for that purpose, and in many instances they have become owners of land by purchase; in this way houses have been erected in village order. The proper supply of labour has not however, been interrupted in carrying on the cultivation of the staple products.

3. In this parish there are a church, four chapels, and seven public schools in full operation, and several benefit or friendly societies.

4. The supply of labour is fully equal to the wants and means of proprietors, and is readily obtained. The wages to located labourers under the rent-free system, is 20 cents per day for the first class out of crop season, and other classes in proportion; during the

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crop or reaping season the cane-cutters are paid 25 cents per day, and manufacturers 30 cents. The last crop, consisting of 1,805 hogsheads, 175 tierces, and 17 barrels of sugar, was much under the usual average, owing to the long continuance of drought; but the prospects of the next are just now very cheering, as the weather has been most favourable for the last three months.

5. The mode of cultivation has much improved on many estates; but I not aware of any new machine being in use in this parish by which labour is saved, nor am I aware of any new manufacture being in use.

6. In this parish the traffic carried on is chiefly by hucksters in the sale of goods to the labourers.

(signed) *Joseph P. Evelyn,*
Police Magistrate.

No. 4.—*Parish of St. John.*

1. A UNIFORMLY strong desire for improvement of their condition in society, and especially for acquiring the luxuries of life, may be considered the most prominent feature in the character of the peasantry. And it is to be regretted that the means used for the attainment of their objects are frequently too little a matter of consideration with them; a system of underhand pillage and trespassing seems universally to have gained ground in this parish. In common with all other producers of the provisions and staple commodities of the island, the labourers have suffered from the late unfavourable weather, which has afflicted this colony during the past year.

Mortality in this parish had increased during the latter part of the last year, nearly two-thirds beyond the usual rate, being to the average of the three previous years, as 152 to 56. This increased mortality has been chiefly among the children, and has been attributed to the late drought which prevailed at the time, and more particularly in this portion of the island; the good health of the population has, however, returned with the accession of prosperous weather. A slight decrease is noticed in the number of offences brought before the police magistrate since the last half-yearly report from this parish.

2. The condition of tenancy on estates may be considered to be in progress to a just and equitable establishment, as some proprietors seem disposed to place their labourers on the footing of tenants in law, without any relation to the disposal of his labour. This state of things will doubtless rapidly spread, when once it be fairly introduced, and will most certainly be productive of more security and satisfaction in the supply of labour than existed heretofore. By this means only can a healthy market for labour be established, and the labourer be attached firmly to his place of residence. The progress of the peasantry in becoming freeholders, is steadily on the advance, although but slowly, owing to the late unfavourable years which have depressed this colony since the period of apprenticeship. In this island, under the present aspect of affairs, these changes may not be expected materially to affect the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple commodity.

3. The public institutions continue to be kept up, and every exertion is continually being made by the clergy for the instruction of the labouring classes, and for the promotion of religious knowledge amongst them; but the want of more extensive public schools for the instruction of that class, is very evident, from the numerous petty teachers who have sprung up, and whose qualifications are very insufficient for the office.

4. The supply of labour continues equal to the demand, without any average decrease in the price. The present rate may be quoted at 1*s.* 0½*d.* sterling per diem, and may be expected to rise in a trifling degree during the reaping of ensuing crop. The sugar crop of the last year amounted to 1,400 hogsheads, and is expected to exceed that number this season. The weather is at this time very favourable for the backward growth of the cane plants in this parish, and is expected materially to increase the sugar crops.

5. The system of cultivation is undergoing rapid improvements for decreasing labour; but owing to the present circumstances of this colony, machinery may not be expected to be adopted to the extent to which the mother country uses it for tillage of the soil.

6. No alteration is observable in the consumption of goods which were noticed in the last half-yearly report, as being the subject of internal traffic.

(signed) *Henry Pilgrim,*
12 March 1842. Police Magistrate.

No. 5.—*Parish of St. Lucy.*

1. THE labourers are still indolent and irregular at their work, and are disposed to be very litigious amongst themselves. They continue fully as much so as when in a state of slavery. No change has particularly taken place in their manners, habits, or tastes, since their emancipation. The rate of mortality and frequency of offences are much the same. The number of complaints investigated in St. Lucy's parish are near or about 50 monthly, and consist chiefly of petty debt, injury to property, theft, and breaches of the peace.

2. An amicable feeling continues to exist between the proprietors and labourers. The labourers' condition is as healthy as that of any other class of inhabitants in the island. The industrious have houses and lands on every estate gratuitously, and those given to indolence, of which there are a great many, seek lodgings with their families at night, on the estates where the families are located.

2. Two

2. Two new chapels have been erected in this parish since the abolition of slavery, in addition to the former church. There are numerous schools about it. No savings' bank or benefit societies. The friendly societies now being established are likely to be beneficial, and are promoted under the direction of the zealous rector of our parish.

4. There is a fair spring of young canes, planted for the crop of the next year, but their yielding a favourable return will naturally depend on the future state of the weather, which of late has been very unfavourable, and the careful cleaning of weeds &c. by the labourers. The supply of them is very deficient, as none will engage in agriculture that can obtain a living in any other way. The wages are two bits per day for nine hours, and extra payment proportionately for any work performed beyond that time. The produce of the last crop was very small and that of the next likely to be smaller.

5. None in this parish.

6. No internal traffic except peddling huckster shops, where articles of food, chiefly American produce, are disposed of.

(signed) *A. H. Morris,*
Police Magistrate.

31 December 1841.

No. 6.—*Parish of St. George.*

1. The general character of the peasantry in this parish has been peaceable, and their condition generally good. I do not know the exact rate of mortality amongst them, although considerable, during the last year. The nature and frequency of offences have greatly decreased.

2. As to the condition of tenancy on estates, labourers are usually supplied with lodging on the estates whereat they may engage to work, upon the terms of working for the estates five successive days in each week, cases of emergency excepted; and upon many estates constant and industrious labourers are supplied with a spot of cultivable land, from a rood to an acre or two, besides lodging on the tenancy before mentioned. I have not observed any progress of the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders or leaseholders; nor to the rising up of new hamlets and villages in this parish.

3. No new institutions have been established in this parish since my last report.

4. The supply of labour has been equal to the demand; the rate of wages depends upon the nature of labour required; but it is usually from one to three or four bits a day; the produce of the last parochial crop was moderate, and the promise of the next precarious; the weather, since Christmas, has been favourable.

5. I do not know of any new machine whereby labour is saved; nor of any improved method of cultivation, nor of any new manufacture, since my last report.

6. The sort of goods most in demand amongst the peasantry of this parish, are articles of food and clothing.

(signed) *Wm. Griffith,*
Police Magistrate.

No. 7.—*Parish of St. Peter.*

1. The peasantry in this parish are of industrious habits, and since the dissolution of the apprenticeship there has been an improvement in their manners and habiliments. They have the means of being quite as happy as the same class of persons in other countries. The rate of mortality cannot be correctly ascertained, as there is no census, nor are there any means of distinguishing the peasantry from others by the register of burials. Many of them are also buried on the estates, of which there is no register. The most frequent offences are trifling assault and battery from trivial causes, and petty theft. Crime of magnitude is of rare occurrence.

2. To secure the important and indispensable supplies of labour, a village is established on each estate by the erection of comfortable dwellings, and a portion of cultivable land is assigned to each labourer. For this privilege and accommodation no charge is made against the labourer, unless he quits the property to bestow his services elsewhere; nor is any charge enforced in case of sickness, or when he obtains the proprietor's sanction to be absent. These matters are clearly understood on both sides, and the system works well under the rude and imperfect knowledge which the late emancipated labourer has formed of his freedom of action. Many of the late emancipated peasantry have acquired property to a small extent, but none have yet established themselves as freeholders.

3. Four schools, two of which are licensed for the performance of Divine service, have been established under the superintendence of the rector. All Saints chapel, destroyed by the hurricane of 1831, has also been rebuilt; also a Wesleyan chapel and school, and several private schools under the direction of other persons. There is a benefit society, but no savings' bank, in this parish.

4. The state of cultivation is good. The supply of labour adequate. The rate of wages varies from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 10½*d.* per diem. The produce of the last crop (1841) is 1,260 tons of sugar; the prospect of the ensuing crop more promising than that of the past year. The weather, after a severe drought, at present favourable.

5. None.

6. Internal traffic for the last two years has been very much depressed, owing to short crops of the staple produce. Cotton goods from merchants are chiefly in demand.

(signed) *J. C. B. Scantlebury,*
Police Magistrate.

12 February 1842.

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No. 8.—*Parish of St. Joseph.*

1. THE excitement of the transition state from slavery to freedom may now be said to have passed away, and comparative quiet and tranquillity has succeeded. Our population may be seen settling themselves down, in the more fertile parts of the island especially, into a contented and happy peasantry. In their cottages the labourers are becoming more cleanly, and are evincing a greater disposition to comfort than they have been hitherto wont. In their lands they are industrious, and those they turn to considerable profit. Marriage has been common, but as they are not sufficiently impressed with the sanctity of this state, it has not yet been a blessing to them. Plurality of concubines is still an evil greatly to be complained of. Larcenies, it is also to be regretted, are not diminishing, and on this point they carry out to the full extent the Spartan principle, that the detection is the only crime.

Quarrels and fights amongst each other are likewise the frequent sources of much litigation. The mortality in the island is not so great as formerly, and the population is rapidly increasing.

2. Proprietors and labourers are better understanding the duties of their relative positions; the one have become conciliatory, whilst the other are quite alive to the advantages which approved conduct must ensure. The conditions of tenancy, as they exist at present, are, I conceive, inconsistent, in a great measure, with the free agency of the labourer; his action is circumscribed. The labourer receives a house from his employer, of which he is to be the tenant without rent so long as he gives his continuous service to the employer; but if he be absent without reasonable cause from his work, a rent is charged for that day, and in most cases an exorbitant rent, so as to compel his constant service. The labourer must submit to this charge or abandon his home, and with it the associations of his earlier life. They have also a quarter of an acre of land, for which they, in most cases, pay a regular rent; but in some instances they have it without rent, and in the event of their quitting the estate they are either allowed to hold the land till their crop is fit to be reaped, or an appraised value of the same is paid them. There can be no doubt that a system of renting them their cottages by the year would be attended with most beneficial results, and would contribute much to the perfection of our free system. The labourers are not much disposed to husband their money; much of it is spent in dissipation and unnecessary luxuries, consequently their advance to independence is but slow.

3. The parish of St. Joseph is one of the smallest in this island, but it possesses its parish church and chapel of ease to the same, at both of which the attendance on Sunday is excellent. There are also two national schools for coloured children under the superintendence of the rector, and they are thriving establishments, but parents have not yet sufficiently availed themselves of the advantages they offer. The number of private schools has been the chief cause of this, on account of their greater convenience to persons living at a distance from the national schools; but the superiority of the latter will in time be their own recommendation. A friendly society has been established for the last four years, and is working well. The zeal of many of the clergy in promoting the best interests of this and other institutions, deserves the highest commendation.

4. This island still continues under the same superior cultivation for which it has long been famed, and with favourable weather may be expected to return large crops. The last crop was estimated at 17,000 hogsheads of sugar, being very little over half the usual crop of the island, and the prospects of the present are not much more favourable. A want of labour is not yet felt, but with better crops this might be the case. Located labourers received 10*d.* sterling per day, whilst those not living on the estates receive 1*s.* 3*d.* sterling.

5. However extravagant would it be for a moment to suppose that the manufacture of Muscavado sugar is at this moment conducted on the most perfect system, either as regards the labour employed or in the quality of the manufacture, yet some idea of this kind has apparently so engrossed the public mind, that no discovery of a nature calculated to be of material benefit has been made within the last 15 years. The planters, however, are waking from their listlessness and apathy on this point, and are disposed to think that much may be done by machinery as an aid to manual labour. To this reaction we must look for beneficial results. Many spirited agriculturists have received their orders from the mother country, of various implements for farming and husbandry, but nothing laying claim to great merit as a discovery has yet appeared. The plough is becoming more generally used, and although there is not perhaps quite as much land under cultivation as a few years since, yet this is more than compensated for by the greater care bestowed on the cultivations generally.

6. With a population of upwards of 120,000, confined within 22 square miles, it might naturally be supposed that there would exist a very considerable internal traffic, but this is not the case: our population is mainly dependent on supplies from America, in the shape of dried fish, corn, flour, biscuits, rice, maize, &c. &c. The cause chiefly contributing this apparent anomaly is, the greater value the labourer derives from his lands by planting them in sugar cane, which are in most cases manufactured for them into sugar, free of costs, on the estates on which they are located. With the money thus obtained, as well as that resulting from their daily labour, they purchase American produce; about two-thirds of the population live on imported food. The estates plant little else than the sugar cane, which is most remunerating.

(signed) *J. D. Maycock,*
Police Magistrate.

Police-Office, 2 April 1842.

No. 9.—*Parish of St. James.*

1. THE general character of the peasantry, considering the few advantages they possessed, and the little opportunity offorded them for moral improvement prior to their release from servitude, is remarkably good. Their present condition, compared with that of the peasantry of England and Ireland, is, I should say, equally as good as the former, and by far better than that of the latter. Many and decided changes are to be observed in their manners and habits, &c. In their dress they are inclined to be extravagant, and all their available means is generally employed in the gratification of it. The rate of mortality I think on the decrease; and as regards the nature and frequency of offences, I can report no decided alteration that has lately taken place; although, on the aggregate, I consider that it has decreased since the apprenticeship.

2. The good understanding so essentially necessary to the welfare of both proprietor and labourer is on the increase; and the fact of their interests being inseparably connected is better understood. The system of renting the houses to the labourers, and leaving them free to carry their labour to the best market, is gaining ground, and the most beneficial effects have resulted on every property where it has come into operation. Many of the peasantry have bought small pieces of land (but few, or none, have sufficient legally to qualify them for the advantages of freeholders). This, it was at first supposed, would tend to diminish the supply of labour for the staple products of the island, but as yet I cannot report any ill effects to have been experienced.

3. No new institutions have been made since those reported in my last.

4. The present state of cultivation is remarkably good, and the supply of labour adequate to maintain it. The rate of wages varies from two to three bits per day. The produce for the present crop will be short, but the prospects for the next are very favourable. The weather has been unusually propitious.

5. I have no new improvements or discoveries in machinery to report.

6. An extensive traffic is carried on by the labourers in taking their provisions, poultry, &c. to town, disposing of it for money, and purchasing other necessaries in return. The great demand for American produce reported in my last has materially decreased in consequence of the abundance of island provisions.

(signed) *Francis Thornhill,*
Police Magistrate.

24 March 1842.

No. 10.—*Parish of St. Andrew.*

1. MY last reply to this question needs little of alteration; the season was not so healthy as during several preceding years, and the mortality, particularly among the humble and labouring classes, and more especially the children, alarmingly increased, according to a report obtained by the venerable the archdeadon of the diocese, and submitted to the legislature at the close of the past year. This document so fully exhibits the facts connected with the subject, embracing both cause and effect, as to render superfluous any further comment. Petty thefts were unusually frequent during the past two months.

2. Migration still continues. Emigration from this parish, I may assume, has ceased, as there has been a long interval to any application for that purpose. Of the establishment of villages on a free-rent system, I have no reason to alter my former opinion. The supply of labour in this parish is ample, provided you will employ it at an excessive high price. In all other respects I adhere to my former reply to this question.

3. No change has occurred on this question since my last report, except that a portion of the juvenile population have undertaken the lighter agricultural occupations, particularly while they can be engaged in the manufacture of sugar. Their engagements are not generally assumed on the same properties where their parents are located.

4. The reaping of the sugar has been commenced in this parish, and the crop will be of larger amount than the preceding year. Provisions, corn, &c. are more abundant than they have been for several preceding years, and are consequently much cheaper. Labour has not reduced in value, and can be obtained in sufficient quantity at high prices. The weather has been moist and boisterous during the last two months. The cultivation is generally good; the last crop was a fair average one of sugar from this parish.

5. To this question my former reply will be substantively continued.

6. All my former opinions with respect to this question I adhere to. The increased native supply of the necessaries of life have already alarmed importers for the diminished demand, which they would fain attribute to fictitious causes: but as the wealth of a country is to be more substantially maintained by its exports than its imports, I shall even suspect the policy which seeks to support particular by the sacrifice of general interests, and which will ultimately involve the whole in one common ruin.

(signed) *James S. Bascom,*
Acting Police Magistrate.

1 January 1842.

No. 11.—*Parish of St. Michael (Rural District).*

1. IN adverting to the character of the peasantry of this country, many circumstances must be taken into consideration. We must remember that few years have elapsed since slavery has ceased to exist, and but three since the apprenticeship system has terminated. I can scarcely think any one could be found who would attempt to maintain that the former was calculated to raise either their moral, religious, or political character, or that the latter was in any way more conducive to those ends. Nevertheless, a gradual but sure and cer-

Appendix VI.

BARBADOS.

tain change had been going on for the last many years, arising from an anxious desire on the part of many proprietors to afford them instruction, and from the indefatigable zeal of our excellent bishop and his clergy, in seconding their views. I date from the abolition of Sunday markets a great change for the better in their character; and I hesitate not to say that, taken as a body, the character of the "Barbados peasantry," considering all the disadvantages they so long laboured under, will stand the test with most others in Her Majesty's dominions. As respects their condition, I know of none who have so many opportunities of living happily and contentedly as they have. Residing in a healthy climate, with a good cottage and a small spot of ground to cultivate, their children instructed, and their wages regularly paid them, a ready sale for their stock and provisions, and but a short distance to travel for any articles they may require, religious instruction afforded them at the many chapels (besides that given on many estates), and medical attendance easily obtained; these and many others are the blessings they enjoy. Since the dissolution of the apprenticeship, I consider that their manners and habits have improved. With regard to the rate of mortality, putting aside the loss of life occasioned by the small-pox, during the last year, I do not consider that any increase has taken place; and offences are certainly decreasing, the generality of complaints being chiefly for petty assaults and small debts.

2. The relation between the peasantry and the proprietors in this parish is certainly good. I scarcely ever receive a complaint from either party against the other, as respects the tenancy on estates. No very positive opinion can be given. On some scarcely a single labourer has quitted; on others (where the cottages have been made most comfortable) there is a continual change. This is attributable to many causes; often to the characters of the old labourers on the estates, and often (as must be admitted) to the system of management. This evil will in time, I hope, find its own cure; and I consider one of the most effectual means will be, for the proprietors to rent the labourer his cottage, allowing him to choose his own place of work. I have always endeavoured to inculcate this opinion on the proprietors, and in many instances in this parish the plan has been tried with success. Little progress has been made by the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, not from any disinclination on their parts to become so, but, circumstanced as our island is, there is little probability of any very great number being able (in the Rural District) to obtain freeholds. The reason is obvious; there is not in the whole island a spot of waste land fit for cultivation; and as the land is principally divided into estates, the proprietors are not likely to sell off small lots for that purpose; and, there being no public lands available, it is plain that freeholds to any extent cannot be established in the country. In the towns, however, they are greatly increased. In this parish new villages are daily rising up, particularly in the suburbs of the town; and when the new "Franchise Bill" receives the Queen's assent, many new freeholds will be formed. I do not consider that in this parish any diminution of labour for the cultivation of the staple produce of the island has taken place in consequence of these changes, as the parties moving near town come almost exclusively from distant parishes.

3. In the rural district of this parish there are four large chapels with schools attached, besides several smaller schools. No savings' banks have been established, but benefit societies are increasing rapidly; to each of the chapels one is attached, and all can boast of a considerable number of subscribers. These institutions are much better calculated to suit the state of society amongst the peasantry than the other would be; they not only teach them frugal habits, but they keep a strict watch on their moral and religious character, and I find in very few instances the members of these societies are ever complained against at the magistrates' office. Our late beloved and lamented Governor, Sir E. J. M. Macgregor, took in these societies, as in every other institution in the island, a great interest.

4. The state of cultivation is excellent, and the prospects at this time good; the supply of labour in the parish abundant, the rate of wages generally from two bits to a quarter of a dollar, or from 10*d.* to 1*s.* sterling; it is often, however, three bits, and sometimes more. The last crop averaged between 17,000 and 18,000 hogsheads; the present crop promises to exceed the last by some thousand hogsheads. The weather, for the last three months, has been most favourable, and the young crop is well established.

5. There are few or no improvements or discoveries either in cultivation or machinery; the plough is coming more into use, and appears to answer well in some situations; the cultivation of the cane, however, admits of very little machinery being used.

6. The state of internal traffic is very great; the articles most in demand are corn, meal, rice, flour, salt fish, and such like; this traffic is carried on principally by small shopkeepers, who are scattered about in every direction throughout the country.

(signed) *J. W. Spencer,*
Police Magistrate.

3 March 1842.

No. 12.—*Parish of St. Michael, Bridge Town.*

1. THE peasantry of this parish of St. Michael have improved in civilisation; their manners have become more refined, they live more luxuriously, appear to be contented to work for fair and equitable wages, and are in general, as far as our observation goes, contented, satisfied, and happy in their several classes and conditions; offences are of no great magnitude, with very few exceptions, and crime has sensibly diminished.

2. Confidence

2. Confidence appears to us to exist between labourer and employer; the system of rent seems to be progressing daily, so that the labourer has a fixed domicile on the several estates. Very few, if any, new freeholds are established in the interior of the country. New villages are in rapid progress in the vicinity of the capital of the island (Bridge Town), but no impediment is offered by these changes, to the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple commodity. It appears to us that there is full and sufficient labour in the island for all agricultural pursuits.

3. None since last answered.

4. We are happy to say that the present prospect of cultivation is excellent, there is a full supply of labour. Wages vary from two bits and a quarter dollar, and three bits per diem, and for job-work the labourers obtain considerably more for their services, when required on particular occasions. The crop is likely to be considerably more than that of last year, the weather has been fine and we have been blessed with abundant rains.

5. None. The plough seems to be in more general use.

6. Many small traders and hucksters are spreading themselves throughout the country and in the vicinity of the towns. The goods most in requisition are American provisions, brandy, gin, porter, and inferior wines, good clothing, hats, shoes, and stockings.

(signed) *E. H. Moore,*
C. Gill,
Wm. Clarke,
} Police Magistrates.

Bridge Town,
31 March 1842.

Sir, Assistant Court of Appeal, 15 April 1842.

WE have the honour herewith to return the documents prepared by the police magistrates of this island, in obedience to Lord John Russell's instructions, and transmitted to us in your letter of the 6th instant, wherein the Governor directs that we should prepare a Report upon the same, for transmission to the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department. 1 to 12.

We have carefully examined this series of replies to the "Six Questions," and do not observe any remarks noted upon subjects, the discussion of which has not been fully entered into in our previous reports, and on which we have not already offered our sentiments and opinions. In order therefore to bring before his Excellency's view in one sheet, the condition of the respective parishes of this island, so far as its agricultural interests, as well as the subjects embodied in the six questions are concerned, we have prepared a summary of the replies (herewith forwarded), from which it will be seen that, with the exception of two parishes (St. Lucy and St. John), the police magistrates of which report unsatisfactorily of the general character and condition of the peasantry in their respective jurisdictions. The labouring population of the remaining ten parishes are described to be characterised by industrious habits, by a marked improvement in their manners, and as apparently contented and satisfied in their respective classes. Summary.

Upon the subject of the present system of free rent or gratuitous tenure in operation in this colony, our opinion has been on many previous occasions most earnestly expressed; and although the plan of renting to the peasantry their cottages and grounds, whereby they become at liberty to dispose of their labour at the most profitable rate, is far from being generally adopted throughout the island, it is gratifying to note that the majority of the police magistrates advocate the latter view; and one writes, that the rent system is gaining ground in this parish (St. James), and beneficial effects have resulted on every property whereon it has been tried. In connexion with this inquiry it is also important to add, that wheresoever the experiment of rent system has been tried, the supply of labour for the cultivation of the staple commodities of the island, has not been diminished, nor do the magistrates entertain the impression that the labour market would be affected thereby, supposing the rent system were to become general throughout the island.

The crop, now in the course of reaping, is expected to be comparatively much diminished in quantity, owing to the severe drought which prevailed in the island during the last year; the prospects, however, of the ensuing sugar crop, are represented to be of the most promising nature.

We have, &c.

(signed) *A. Cuppage*, J. A. C. A.
J. J. Tinling, J. A. C. A.
Jos. Garraway, J. A. C. A.

The Hon. Felix Bedingfeld,
Private Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

(True copies, &c.)

(signed) *Felix Bedingfeld,*
Acting Private Secretary.

SUMMARY of REPLIES to Lord *John Russell's* "SIX QUESTIONS," received from the respective Police Magistrates of the Parishes of the Island of *Barbados*, for the Year ending 31st December 1841.

SUBJECT.	1. ST. PHILIP.	2. ST. THOMAS.	3. CHRIST CHURCH.	4. ST. JOHN.	5. ST. LUCY.	6. ST. GEORGE.
1. General character and condition of peasantry, including manners, rate of mortality, nature and frequency of offences, &c. &c.	-- Much improved, reciprocal duties becoming daily better understood. The great mortality, some months past, among the old people and children, has now ceased. Petty thefts and assaults; felonies are rare. Courts of reconciliation, which are held in this parish, tend to prevent crime and immorality.	-- Progressive improvement in agricultural habits, but morals still backward. 202 deaths in this parish from 1st August 1841 to 1st March 1842. 292 baptised; 19 emigrated.	-- Satisfactory. Due respect shown to the laws and authorities; improvement manifest in manners and habits since dissolution of apprenticeship. Mortality has increased, but to no alarming extent. Petty thefts and minor offences.	-- Unsatisfactory. A system of pillage and trespassing prevails. Mortality increased, the latter part of last year, nearly two-thirds beyond the usual rate, as 152 to 56, chiefly among children, attributed to the drought. The return of prosperous weather brought renewed health. Slight decrease in number of offences.	-- Indolent and irregular at work; litigious among themselves. No particular change to note. Mortality and frequency of offences much the same. Complaints average, per month, 50, chiefly petty debts, injury to property, thefts, and breaches of the peace.	-- Peaceable; condition generally good. Mortality last year considerable. Offences greatly decreased.
2. Relations between labourers and proprietors, including tenancy, new hamlets, &c.	-- Very good, except where rent is charged for days absent from labour; advocates the rent system as the only means to check this evil. A few estates have adopted rent system with success. No new hamlets. The new Franchise Bill will create freeholders.	-- One village in existence, erected by the legatees of Mount Wilton estate, from the 7,055*l.* left by R. A. Ellcock, esq. to his labourers. The possessors of these lands are freeholders. The village has had no effect upon the labour market.	-- The rent-free system in operation; but labourers evince great desire for independent houses. A few have been enabled to purchase small lots of land; but the supply of labour has not been interrupted thereby.	-- A leaning to the rent system observable among the planters, which is encouraged by police magistrate. If generally introduced, does not anticipate that it would diminish the supply of labour for cultivation of the staple commodity.	-- Amicable. The rent-free system prevails, but does not appear to be successful, as complaint is made of indolence to a great extent among the labourers, who receive their houses and land allotments gratuitously.	-- The rent-free system in operation. No new hamlets. No progress observable in the establishment of freeholds by labourers.
3. New institutions, including churches, schools, savings' banks, &c.	-- One church; four chapels; three public schools; several private ditto; one friendly society; no savings' bank.	-- Churches, chapels, and schools in plenty; the accommodation equal to attendance. Friendly society flourishing; upwards of 700 contributors at present.	-- One church; four chapels; seven public schools; several friendly or benefit societies.	-- The want of larger public schools is evident from the numerous private teachers employed, who are disqualified for the office. The public institutions in existence are kept up, and the clergy exert themselves for this end.	- Two new chapels erected since the abolition of slavery, in addition to the parish church. No savings' bank. Friendly societies established, and promise to be beneficial.	-- No additional institution since last Report.
4. State and prospects of cultivation, including rate of wages, supply of labour, &c.	-- Twenty cents to 25 cents per diem. Crop for 1843 will be brilliant, if wet weather continue. Crop for 1841 bad; that for 1842 little better, but much below average. Deficiency attributable to heavy drought. The crop (1841) nearly 2,500 hogsheads below the general average.	- Emigration totally ceased. Abundance of labour, but at a high rate. Good prospects for the ensuing crop; that of 1841 was 2,105 hogsheads.	-- Supply of labour fully equal to the demand, and readily obtained. Under rent-free system, first-class labourer receives 20 cents per day out of crop. During crop, cane-cutters receive 25 cents, and manufacturers 30 cents. Drought diminished last crop, which was 1,805 hogsheads, 175 tierces of sugar. Cheering prospects for the ensuing crop.	-- Supply of labour equal to the demand. No decrease in the average price, which may be quoted at 1*s.* 0½*d.* sterling per diem; a trifle higher in crop time. Good prospects for next crop; the last amounted to 1,400 hogsheads of sugar.	-- Last crop very small, and that of the next likely to be smaller. Supply of labour very deficient. They are averse to agriculture. Wages, two bits per day for nine hours.	-- Supply of labour equal to demand. Wages dependent on the nature of work required. Rate from one to three and four bits per day. Last crop moderate; the promise of next precarious; weather, however, since Christmas, favourable.
5. Improvements and discoveries.	-- None. Mr. O'Keefe's (Jamaica) improvement in the manufacture of rum alluded to.	-- None. Plough not used. Manual labour supersedes the use of agricultural implements.	- Mode of cultivation much improved; but no machinery has been introduced to save manual labour.	-- System of cultivation undergoing rapid improvement; but, owing to the present impoverished circumstances of the planters, machinery may not be expected to be adopted here to any extent.	- - None - -	- - None.
6. State of internal traffic, including description of goods most in demand, &c.	-- Huckstering. Goods in demand are luxuries of life and articles of dress.	-- Shops of dry and wet goods. The markets furnished by labourers with pigs, lambs, poultry, &c.	Huckstering - - -	-- No alteration, in this respect, from the remarks noted in last Report.	-- Hucksters' shops, where food, chiefly American produce, is disposed of.	-- Description of goods in demand consists of articles of food and clothing.

SUMMARY of REPLIES *to Lord John Russell's "*SIX QUESTIONS,*" received from the respective Police Magistrates of the Parishes of the Island of Barbados, &c.— continued.*

SUBJECT.	7. ST. PETER.	8. ST. JOSEPH.	9. ST. JAMES.	10. ST. ANDREW.	11. ST. MICHAEL.	12. BRIDGE TOWN.
1. General character and condition of peasantry, including manners, rate of mortality, nature and frequency of offences, &c. &c.	-- Characterised by industrious habits. No estimate can be made of the rate of mortality. Petty thefts and assaults. Crimes of magnitude are rare.	-- Tranquil and industrious; evince a disposition for increased comfort in their domestic establishments. Marriage is common, but its holy state too frequently violated. Larcenies have not diminished. Population rapidly increasing.	-- Manners and habits decorous. Expend greater part of their earnings in dress. No increase in the rate of mortality. Offences have decreased since the apprenticeship.	-- Refers generally to preceding Report. Unhealthy season caused an alarming mortality among the children; the cause will be found explained in a Report of the Archdeacon of Barbados, presented to the House of Assembly.	-- Very favourable. Manners and habits have undergone considerable improvement. No increase of mortality. Offences decreasing.	-- Apparently contented and satisfied in their respective classes. Improvement in civilisation and manners. Offences of no great magnitude. Crime has sensibly diminished.
2. Relations between labourers and proprietors, including tenancy, new hamlets, &c.	-- The rent-free system in existence, and is said to work well. No freeholders among the labourers.	-- Deprecates the rent-free system; strenuously advocates the rent plan. Being careless of money, the advance of labouring population to freehold independence is slow.	-- Amicable. The rent system gaining ground, and beneficial effects have resulted on every property whereon it has been tried; many have purchased land, but not to that extent which would qualify them as freeholders; the supply of labour has not been in consequence diminished.	-- Emigration has ceased. Adheres to previously expressed opinions in regard to the rent system and the establishment of free villages. The supply of labour ample, but at a high price.	-- Friendly. Advocates the rent system as the best means of cementing the present good understanding. No freeholders. No waste land to permit labourers to purchase. Supply of labour adequate to the demand.	-- Confidence between employers and employed. The rent system is gaining converts. New villages are springing up in the vicinity of Bridgetown, but no impediment is thereby created against the due supply of labour for estate cultivation.
3. New institutions, including churches, schools, savings' banks, &c.	-- Four schools, two of which are licensed for the performance of Divine worship. One chapel rebuilt, and several private schools. One benefit society. No savings' bank.	-- Parish church and chapel of ease. Two national schools for coloured children, but parents do not generally avail themselves of these public establishments, but send children to private schools. One friendly society in operation, and thriving.	None since last Report -	-- No change since the last Report. A portion of juvenile population has resumed the lighter agricultural duties, but never on those estates whereon their parents are located.	-- Four large chapels, with schools attached, and many other small schools. No savings' bank; but each chapel has a friendly society in connexion with it.	None since last Report.
4. State and prospects of cultivation, including rate of wages, supply of labour, &c.	-- Cultivation good; labour adequate. Wages 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 10½*d.* currency per day. Crop for 1841, 1,260 tons of sugar; promising weather for ensuing crop.	-- Last crop, 17,000 hogsheads, little more than half of the usual average. The prospects of the present crop unfavourable. No want of labour. Wages, to located labourers, 10*d.* sterling; and to transient workmen, 1*s.* 3*d.* sterling per day.	-- Prospect for next crop very good; the present one will be short. Cultivation remarkably good, and adequate labour to maintain it. Wages from two to three bits per day.	-- Present crop will be more abundant than last. Provisions and corn in plenty, and cheaper than usual. Cultivation generally good. The last sugar crop was a fair average one for this parish.	-- Cultivation good; young crop well established; abundant labour. Wages from 10*d.* to 1*s.* sterling per diem; sometimes more than 1*s.* 3½*d.* sterling.	-- Cheering prospects for ensuing crop.
5. Improvements and discoveries.	- - None - -	-- None as yet; but the planters of this parish are getting fully alive to the importance of using agricultural implements, and several have introduced farming and husbandry tools on their properties.	- - None - -	Refer to last Report -	-- The plough is coming more into use, but no improvements or discoveries can be noted.	-- None. The plough is apparently in more general request.
6. State of internal traffic, including description of goods most in demand, &c.	-- Cotton goods from Manchester chiefly in demand. Internal traffic for the last two years deeply depressed.	-- With a population of 120,000, very little internal traffic exists in the island. Labourers depend upon American produce; viz., dried fish, corn, flour, biscuits, rice, maize, &c. The peasantry prefer to plant the sugar cane in lieu of provision in their allotments, hence their dependance upon the American supply of the provision market.	-- Provisions, poultry, &c. raised in abundance; in consequence of which, the demand (last reported) for American produce has decreased. Ground provisions have been more generally and widely cultivated of late.	-- The increased native supply of necessaries of life has alarmed importers on the score of the diminished demand for their imported produce. The police magistrate adheres to his previously expressed opinions upon this subject.	-- A great many small shopkeepers retail American produce, and carry on a thriving traffic.	-- Many small traders and hucksters are vending throughout the island. The goods most in requisition are, American provisions, brandy, gin, porter, inferior wines, hats, shoes, good clothing, stockings, &c. &c. &c.

A. Cuppage, J. A. C. A.
J. J. Tinling, J. A. C. A.
Jos. Garraway, J. A. C. A.

Appendix VI.

BARBADOS.

Letter from J. P. Mayers, Esq. to J. S. Pakington, Esq. M.P. 11 July 1842.

— No. 2. —

LETTER from *J. P. Mayers*, Esq. to *J. S. Pakington*, Esq. Chairman of the Committee.

Sir, 60, St. James's-street, 11 July 1842.

HAVING availed myself of the permission obligingly granted by your Honourable Committee to the agents of the West India Colonies, to be present at the investigation directed by the House of Commons, into the causes that at present injuriously affect their cultivation, and having heard the evidence submitted to you on this important subject, I now beg leave most respectfully to state, that although the colony of Barbados, having been blest with a labouring population more settled, industrious, and suited to its wants than any other, is so little comparatively interested in the issue of the inquiry, as to render it unnecessary for me to trouble you at any length, I am so much impressed with the evils which must ensue to that population, as well as the proprietors, if measures provocative of emigration from one West India colony to another should meet with encouragement from Your Committee, that I feel myself called upon, as the agent, to express a hope that, in any Report it may be deemed necessary to make on the evidence you have received, due regard will be had to the interest of the older colonies, and to those existing laws and ordinances which are restrictive of any improper interference, or tampering with their labourers.

From the proud and honourable distinction which the island of Barbados acquired by exhibiting on its annual slave registrations a gradual and very considerable increase of population for many years antecedent to the abolition of slavery, its planters, on that auspicious and blessed event, were so unfortunate as to encounter on their own soil the formidable competition of their more wealthy and enterprising neighbours, who, in addition to other very ample means, having received a rate of compensation for each slave, under the Abolition Act, of nearly treble the amount of that awarded to some of the older colonies, became possessed of such a vast superiority of capital as gave them a decided advantage in the labour market over the planters of every other colony; and under the specious but fallacious plea that the population of Barbados was redundant, their first energetic attempt was made against the interest of that island; and, by means of paid agents, the most strenuous efforts were made to entice away our best people, with a view to their location in the more fertile but less healthy climate of Guiana. By those means, within the brief space of one year and a very few months, between 2,000 and 3,000 of our adult labourers were induced to emigrate; and so unscrupulous were the efforts made by these interested persons, the agents, to unsettle the minds of the whole class of our peasantry, by exciting in them a feeling of discontent with their situation, and a spirit of animosity towards their employers, that, but for the prompt exertions of the Legislature, aided by the spirited and judicious conduct of the late lamented Governor, Sir Evan Macgregor, happily sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, there is every reason to believe that the best plantations throughout every parish would have been denuded of their effective people, and the most ancient and loyal colony of Barbados would probably have lost for ever that creditable station which, to use the words of its late honoured chief, "it has honourably won and long and deservedly occupied amidst the transatlantic possessions of the British Crown."

I should not have troubled you further on this subject, contenting myself with a reliance on the documentary evidence before you, in proof that the agricultural portion of our population is not more than sufficient for our cultivation, had I not heard it stated by one of the witnesses, in the course of the examination, that the deficiency of labour in Guiana might be recruited by importations from the older colonies, as well as from the Coast of Africa, and other quarters; specifically stating, that so many as from 5,000 to 8,000 could at present be conveniently spared from Barbados, and about 3,000 from Antigua.

With respect to Barbados, this statement is directly at variance with the statements of the late Governor, the police magistrates, and the inspector-general of police, whose opinions are founded on recent observations; and in addition to this very forcible and concurrent testimony, I take the liberty of handing you an Official Gazette of the present year, containing a Return from Archdeacon Parry, to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, of burials in the several parishes of the island, during the months of July, August, and September, in the years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841; by which it appears, that the mortality, chiefly among the children of the labouring class, was three times the average amount.

This unusual mortality was ascribed by the clergy to five distinct causes, one of which was:

"Emigration of fathers, throwing the whole burden of supporting the children upon the mothers, and obliging them to leave their children unattended, in order to work for their support." It was added, however, that this was alleged on hearsay, and not from actual observation. The Return, however, is quite sufficient to establish the fact of an alarming decrease.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. P. Mayers*,
Agent for Barbados.

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Burnley, William Hardin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has resided in the colony of Trinidad for 40 years, with occasional absences, formerly as a merchant, and latterly as a proprietor of several sugar estates, 584-589——There is a law which regulates the contracts of hiring between labourers and employers; practically it is inoperative, 590——The proprietors are anxious the labourers should enter into written agreements; their objection to do so, 592-594——Redress in case of non-performance of any verbal contract by either employer or labourer, 595, 596——The labourer is always engaged by the task when it can be done; explanation of a task; impossibility of regulating all the work on a sugar estate by the task, 597, 598. 600——Rate of wages to an able-bodied labourer when not employed upon task-work, 599. 601, 602.

Since emancipation it has been found that the labourers can do two or more tasks in a day; they receive the same rate for the second and third task, and the same allowances; from the amiability of the protectors, a task was formerly considered a sufficient day's work for a slave, 603-616——Attempt made to reduce the money wages, 617——Advantage enjoyed by the labourers beyond their wages, 618——Any attempt to charge rent for the houses occupied by the negroes would be hopeless; it would be decidedly expedient to establish the system if it could be done, 619-631——Impossibility of the proprietors effecting many things which would have been beneficial to them, on account of the demand for labour being so much greater than the supply, 621. 625. 629——Practice with respect to the ejection of labourers from their houses and grounds, 623-626——Cost of erecting a house in Trinidad; American timber is used; labour is so extravagantly high, that though the country is covered with timber, it is found cheaper to import it from America, 627-631.

One of the great grievances of which the proprietors have to complain, is the negroes cultivating public or Crown lands without permission; the greater part of the squatters fix themselves upon Crown lands, 632-635——Ordinary price of land in Trinidad since 1838, 636——The squatters have generally established themselves in the neighbourhood of some population; objection to enforcing from those persons a considerable rent for those lands if they chose to retain them, 637-641. 644——At the present time there would be no difficulty in ejecting them; there may be a difficulty if they are allowed to remain, 642, 643——If they were asked for rent they would return immediately to the estate from which they came, 645——It would be impossible to make any arrangement among the proprietors in order to obviate this difficulty, in a colony where such a competition for labour exists, 646——Witness has never known instances of the purchase of estates by negroes in Trinidad, 647——The proprietors give too much facility to the negroes at the present moment in the purchase of land; the proprietors get very high prices; highest price paid by a negro for an acre, 648-651——The labourers who purchase small allotments practically continue to labour on the estate, 652.

Attempts have been made to induce the labourers to cultivate the sugar cane, with a view to their own profit; failure of the attempt, 653, 654——Want of a sufficient motive to induce them to work, 655——The labourers are now in a better state as to comfort and luxuries of every description than in any other part of the world, 661——Whether it would be possible to obtain the same return of produce at a diminished expense, by reducing the quantity of land in cultivation, 662-664——Raising a certain fund for educational and religious purposes by direct taxation would be of great advantage to the colony; way in which the tax might be levied, 665-697——It would have the same effect as an increased population if the present population would devote a larger proportion of their time to labour, 698-700——Diminution of the supply of labour in Trinidad since the commencement of freedom; women perform field work; children do not work, 701-712——In the present state of Trinidad, with regard to the want of a continuous supply of labour, estates cannot be kept up to remunerate proprietors, 713-718.

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Burnley, William Hardin. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

[Second Examination.]—Evidence to amend the answer given by witness in his first examination to Question 606, respecting the task-work being as well done now as during apprenticeship, 720——Statement, showing the average quantity of sugar made in the last three years of slavery, the last three years of apprenticeship, and the three years of freedom which have elapsed since the 1st January 1839; 721–725——The rising generation in Trinidad, instead of getting better, and improving from the establishment of school teachers, are deteriorating in their morals every day, 726——The practice of supplying the labourers gratuitously with rum has conduced greatly to deprave their morals, 727——Reason assigned by the Bishop of Agna for the superior sobriety and morality of the negroes in St. Lucia, as compared with those of Trinidad, 728–746.

How the practice pursued by the colonial authorities has deterred labourers from entering into contracts for labour; it would be advantageous to make the contracts legal, especially those made out of the island; the contract should be made according to the market rate of wages existing in the island, 747–779——Number of immigrants arrived in Trinidad in the course of the last two years, 781–785——High rate of wages; the inhabitants of Trinidad could pay even at this rate, if there were continuous labour, 786, 787——Number of immigrants it would be necessary to import annually, for the purpose of making any visible impression on the amount of wages; average expense per head of the conveyance of emigrants from the coast of Africa, 788–793——There are very few of the labourers who accumulate money in Trinidad; those who do accumulate withdraw from labour, 794–797. 805——Tendency among the negroes to collect in the towns rather than live in the country districts, 798–800——In cases in which they have become possessed of lands themselves, they cultivate them but very little indeed, 801. 807, 808.

Manner in which the negroes supply themselves with provisions; the prices of provisions have risen partially, 802–804. 806——In the event of receiving an adequate amount of immigration, the rate of wages will be lower; this is the mode in which witness expects to arrive at a system of continuous labour, 809–812——With proper regulations and restrictions a smaller number would suffice; nature of the regulations and restrictions contemplated, 812, *et seq.*——Witness would recommend the commandants of quarters to be reappointed, for the purpose of securing such continuous labour as to enable the importation of a smaller number of immigrants to suffice for the purpose of cultivation; principal duties of the commandants, 813–817. 830–840. 849, 850——Reasons for supposing that granting leases for terms of years would not have the effect of attaching the negro to the soil, and permanently keeping him to the same district, 818–824——Further evidence as to the anxiety of the proprietors to have written contracts with the labourers; the labourers invariably refuse, 825–827——Impracticability of introducing into the island of Trinidad the practice which has been adopted in St. Lucia, of allowing the negroes to have part of the profit that results from the cultivation of sugar, 828.

Difficulty of deciding whether the value of land has fallen or not since freedom, 841–844——Some of the free labourers have purchased land at a very high rate, 845——The supply of immigrants from Sierra Leone will depend very much upon the authorities there; none of the emigrants who have gone thence to Trinidad have returned to Africa on account of disappointment, 846–848—— Evidence as to the emigration of Europeans into Trinidad; how employed; their fate; no person in Trinidad would wish Europeans generally to be introduced, 851–860——Number of efficient working slaves at the time of emancipation in Trinidad; proportion who have retired from field and other labour, 861, 862——Some of the immigrants have come from the United States of America but the larger portion from the West India islands, 863, 864——Method pursued in the manufacture of sugar in Trinidad; they have not improved in the cultivation of it, or the processes since the period of slavery, 865–875. 882, 883——Attempt made to introduce the plough; it cannot be used so advantageously in Trinidad as in many of the other islands on account of the nature of the soil, 876, 877——The soil is so wet, manure is not required, 878, 879.

Machinery is extensively used in Trinidad, 880, 881——Further evidence as to the number of tasks a negro can perform in a day, 884–889——Witness concurs in the answers given by Mr. Sorsano before the committee in Trinidad, with regard to the population of that island, the extent of the colony, and the quantity of land in cultivation, 890——Means which would prevent any part of the uncultivated or Crown lands being taken possession of by trespassers, 891–902——Comparative statement of the colonial revenue of Trinidad for each year, from 1832 to 1840, both inclusive, 903——How far the taxes in Trinidad add to the expenses of the sugar cultivation, and to the cost of living of the labourer, 904, 905——Difficulty of telling whether the population of the colony has increased since the abolition of slavery, by natural increase, 906——Causes of the difficulty of introducing the freeborn Creoles to labour in the island of Trinidad, 907.

[Third Examination.]—Explanations with reference to portions of former evidence; respecting the means to be taken to prevent squatters taking possession of the lands; the

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the powers of commandants; the regulations necessary for the well-being of the community, 908, 909——The principal cause of the distress of the planters in Trinidad is the want of a sufficient labouring population to enable them to keep the large capital invested in sugar estates in profitable employment; remedy suggested as most likely to meet this deficiency, 910–913. 915——The sugar cultivation might be increased to any required extent by sufficient immigration, 914——Great alteration in the habits of the negro population since the abolition of slavery, 916–922——Deteriorated state of the colony of Trinidad in 1841 as compared with 1823; 923–936——Evidence to show that the annual produce exported from Trinidad has been less during the last three years than the average of any preceding three years; so far as the imports are concerned, the trade has increased, 937–949——The basis of the law in Trinidad is Spanish law; this has in some measure prevented capital from going into the island; efforts made to reform the state of the law there, 950–957.

Information respecting the administration of justice; salaries of the judges; there are assessors appointed in criminal cases, from among the inhabitants, who sit with the judges, 958–973. 995–999——There is a legislative council in the island; how constituted; the council resisted the abolition of the apprenticeship system up to within a few days of the 1st August 1838; 974–987. 1021–1023——Measures which were passed through witness's instrumentality, when he was a member of the council, 988–991——The labourers have conducted themselves as well as might be expected, since emancipation, considering the influences and temptations to which they have been subjected, 992–994——General opinion of the inhabitants that at least one-third of the labourers have retired from field labour; the amount of immigrants has not been equal to this extent of labour, 1000–1010——Whilst the general revenue of the colony has more than doubled, and the physical comforts of the labourers have increased, the sugar estates have diminished in value, and now do not return a fair interest for the capital embarked in them, 1011–1013.

The fees of public offices have very much increased, 1014——Although the population of the towns has increased, the house-tax has decreased since 1832; 1015–1020——To what the increase in the item of quit-rent upon the sale of Crown lands may be attributed, 1024–1027——It would be a material assistance to the planters, in their present difficulties, if they could be relieved from the export duty, if the necessary amount of revenue could be raised by some form of taxation pressing more upon the labourers, 1028–1030——How the old and infirm persons, incapable of maintaining themselves by labour, are generally maintained in the island, 1031–1044——Description of the Cabildo in Port of Spain, 1035–1044——Evidence respecting the duties upon exports and imports, 1045–1050——Increase of buildings in the colony within the last few years; by whom erected; class of persons for whose accommodation they have been built, 1051–1053——The condition of the colony was worse in 1841, than at any former period, 1054——Price sugar ought to fetch in this country, in order to give a fair return to the planter, according to the present expenses of raising it in the colony, 1055–1064——The inhabitants of Trinidad do not look so much to the reduction in the rate of wages, as to increased competition among the labourers creating steady and better work, 1065–1070.

[Fourth Examination.]—Explanation of part of former evidence with respect to Question 792, relating to the necessary annual expenditure to be laid out in emigration, for the purpose of so reducing the wages as to enable the cultivation to be carried on at a profit, 1285, 1286.

Bushe, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has lately come from Trinidad; is proprietor of sugar estates there, and attorney for many others, 3801–3803——The hours of labour were regulated by an Order in Council in Trinidad, at nine hours a day, 3818–3830——In slavery they worked 12 hours a day, 3831–3834——The want of continuous labour is the principal difficulty under which the planters labour; whether any law could be devised which would meet the difficulties which exist, 3835–3844——If witness finds the labourers on his estates do not give him two days' labour in a week, he does not eject them; it is done in some instances, 3845, 3846——Witness generally gives the work to his labourers by the task; this is the best way of promoting exertion that can be devised; explanation of what constitutes a task, 3847–3853——Taking the average of the year, it is general on the estates adjoining to witness's, for the labourers to work four days in the week; these men will give four hours' work in the day in the out-of-crop season and nine in the crop season, 3854–3856.

Amount of wages witness pays his labourers, 3857–3861——Continuous labour is most important when they are engaged about the manufacture of sugar, 3862–3864——Extent of provision ground witness allows to his labourers; number of labourers he has upon an estate, 3865–3867——The labourers prefer working nine hours in crop season to working four hours in the other season for the same wages, 3868–3876——The system of payment of a fine or rent by labourers on the days they do not work has never been tried in Trinidad, 3877, 3878——Estates which have been abandoned in consequence of the distress which the planters have lately suffered, 3879–3892. 3999–4023.——Witness has never known any instance in Trinidad of negroes purchasing estates; only small portions of land, 3893–3897——They never cultivate sugar upon

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Bushe, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

the lands purchased or rented by them, 3898——The only remedy for the distress of the planters would be immigration, 3899–3904. 3908–3910——The production of sugar has fallen off 20 per cent. since emancipation; this is to be attributed entirely to the falling off of labour, 3905. 3907. 3911.

The inducement of higher wages, allowances, &c. has been tried to no effect; the planters cannot afford to pay the present rate of wages; an attempt has been made to reduce them, 3911–3942. 3981, 3982. 3997, 3998——They do not do their tasks so well as they used to do, 3943–3945——From whence the immigrants have principally come; those from Sierra Leone are the best and most valuable, 3946–3963——Number of hours' labour they are able to perform, 4150–4165——The population of Trinidad has been increasing to a great extent, from natural causes, 3964——The general condition of the negro has improved since emancipation, 3965——They have abundant means of education and religious instruction, 3966–3969——Marriages have increased very much, 3970——Police regulations in Trinidad, 3971–3973——Difference between the hours of labour obtained in slavery and in freedom, 3974——The soil in Trinidad is as fine as any in the world, 4024. 4106–4108——Evidence respecting the price of sugar that would be a remunerating price, 4025–4039.

Expediency of reducing wages, 4040–4054——Error of the statement by Mr. Robert Neilson that a return of upwards of 20*s.* per cwt. in addition to the contingent expenditure, is required to give the proprietor a moderate per-centage on his capital, 4058, 4059——Spanish law is the law of the country, but a great number of English laws have been introduced by Orders in Council, 4060——Evidence respecting the laws regulating the contracts between masters and labourers, 4061–4063——The general trade of the island has increased since emancipation, 4064, 4065——The complaint of distress has never been so loud as at the present period, 4066–4073——The negroes do not subscribe to chapels or schools, 4074–4077——Quantity of land sold to the labourers lately, 4078–4085——A reduction of wages is necessary to prevent a third of the estates being thrown out of cultivation, 4086–4091. 4132, 4133——Very little good would be done by relieving the burthens of the planters in the way of taxation, 4092–4095——Evils arising from absenteeism, 4096–4105. 4114–4119——There is likely to be an increased supply of labourers from North America, 4109–4113——They would not be satisfied with a lower rate of wages, 4120–4124——The wages paid now are pretty nearly the same as during slavery, 4125, 4126.

In 1841 not one-tenth part of the estates paid their expenses, 4127–4136——The plough has been used on some estates, 4134——Great economy might be produced by the introduction of machinery, 4134–4138. 4145, 4146——Some protection should be given to free-labour sugar over slave-labour sugar; free labour in any case will not be able to compete with slave labour, 4139–4144——Number of hours' labour in the day the master had a right to exact from the labourers during slavery, 4147——The consumption of rum in the island has increased very much since emancipation; the negroes are not naturally inclined to intoxication, 4148, 4149——Size of the hogshead in Trinidad; there has been no alteration in it lately, 4166, 4167——Number of immigrants received in Trinidad from the United States; it will never be a large source of immigration, 4168–4175——As far as it has been tried, the reduction of wages has fully succeeded, 4176, 4177——The aged and infirm are taken care of by themselves; there is no poor law, 4178–4184.

Difficulty of finding persons in North America willing to emigrate, 4185–4188——Extra compensation paid to labourers when they give extra labour, 4189–4192——The law affords no means of compelling a fair amount of labour by the day, 4193–4195——It would be impossible to obtain a greater share of labour without reducing the wages, 4196——Effective labour has increased latterly, 4197–4202.

C.

Cabildo (Port of Spain). Description of the Cabildo in Port of Spain, *Burnley* 1035–1044.

Calder Estate (St. Vincent's). Effects of the diminution of labour since the commencement of freedom upon the cultivation of the sugar cane, and the quantity of sugar manufactured on the Calder estate, *Grant* 90–97——Number of labourers who left this estate immediately after emancipation, *Ib.* 486–490——Those who remained performed only a certain portion of work, *Ib.* 491, 492——Return of the labour performed on Calder estate, in St. Vincent, during the first five months of freedom, from 1st August 1838 to the 1st January 1839, by 85 labourers, of whom 58 were first class, and 27 second class, *Ev. p.* 7——Return of the cost of production of sugar on Plantation Calder, in the colony of St. Vincent, during apprenticeship and freedom, *Ib.* 20.

See also *Argyle Estate.* *Labour,* II. 8. ii. *Manure.*

Campbell, Mungo. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Was at British Guiana for three months in 1841; co-proprietor of estates in Demerara, 1914–1918——The principal production of British Guiana is sugar; the quantity of cotton and coffee are much diminished, 1919, 1920——Imperfect understanding of the laws and ordinances concerning the regulation of labour by the planters, 1921–1932——The negroes have excellent houses and

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Campbell, Mungo. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

and provision grounds, as long as they work on the estate; when they cease working, they may be ejected after three or four days' notice, 1934–1943——Mode of ejectment, 1946–1948——Usual wages for a common field task, 1949, 1950. 1955–1960——When a labourer gets a house, he is expected, at all events, to work a month, 1951——It would be an excellent thing to get them to pay rent and to raise wages; but they object to pay rent, 1952–1954——Pay to labourers engaged in the manufacture of sugar, 1961–1965——Negroes in the field do their work in so slovenly a manner, as to do a task in four hours that ought to take 7½ hours; difficulty of obtaining redress, 1966–1973——The stipendiary magistrates have a leaning towards the labourers, 1974, 1975——The power of obtaining a second task encourages the men to get over the first in a slovenly manner, 1976–1979——When labourers are ejected they are either allowed to reap their crop, or are paid for it, 1980.

The wages are paid weekly, 1981, 1982——All allowances in addition to wages have been abolished; they may be resorted to as an encouragement, 1983–1993——Labourers frequently complain to magistrates when their wages are withheld for bad work, and generally recover them, 1994–2003——The work on sugar and coffee plantations is done by job, and the labourers begin and leave off when they please, 2004–2006——The women and children work well, 2009–2017——Much less work is done in every stage of cultivation; production has fallen off one half, and some estates have been put out of cultivation, 2020–2025——The land abandoned is sold in small lots to negroes, who build their houses on them and cultivate provisions, 2026–2030——The great fertility of Demerara is thrown away for want of labour to till it, 2031–2033——The greater part of British Guiana is very fertile, 2035–2037——Irregularity of the labour now applied to the estates, 2038–2040——Names of witness's estates, and where situated, 2041–2045——Evil consequences of the want of continuous labour, 2046–2054——There have been immigrants to British Guiana, from Africa, and from India, 2055–2059——Extensive use of machinery in British Guiana, 2060–2064.

Reasons why the quantity of land under cultivation could not be reduced, under present circumstances, with advantage, 2065——Description of machinery used; horse and steam ploughs, 2066–2072——Particulars as to the plantation Enterprise; number of acres, and how appropriated, 2073–2086——Expenses in detail of cultivating that estate in the two last years of slavery, the three last of apprenticeship, and in the last three years, 2087–2090——Accounts given in, of the expenses of cultivating sugar on the plantations Endeavour, Aurora and Enterprise, 2091——Total estimated loss in three years upon five estates in Demerara, on account of the want of continuous labour, 2096–2098——Diminution of labourers on those estates since emancipation, 2099–2101——Estimated cost of producing sugar per cwt. during slavery, apprenticeship and freedom, respectively, 2102–2107——The negro population of British Guiana has increased, 2108–2111——About 9,000 immigrants have arrived, 2113–2115.

There is labour enough in the colony, but it cannot be obtained for the cultivation of sugar, 2116–2120——Extensive immigration, with power to enforce contracts for labour, is much wanted, 2121–2124——Good character of the Coolies; they work more continuously, and their work may be better depended upon, 2125–2143——Some Coolies say they will return to Calcutta and bring thence their families and friends, 2144——Their contract is for five years, 2145–2148. 2252——Natives of Madeira and Malta have come to British Guiana, but became sickly, and did not answer well, 2149, 2150. 2152–2155——On some estates there was much mortality amongst the Coolies, on others none at all, 2159——The growth of sugar could be increased to any extent with sufficient labour, 2156–2159——Effect of the abandonment of many sugar estates upon the general interests of the colony, and of the black population, 2160–2163——Moral and religious instruction of the negroes; erection of churches and school houses; how provided, 2164–2185——Public schools have been erected by the Mico charity, and by charitable individuals, 2186–2189——The negroes subscribed for a church on the island of Leguan, 2190——The salaries of the clergy are paid out of the colonial chest, 2191–2194.

The negroes have become much more idle since the commencement of freedom, 2195——Negroes have combined in companies of 50 or 100, and bought sugar estates for several thousand pounds; they only grow provisions on them, 2196–2212——They had a large and profitable market for their provisions, 2213–2217——They never cultivate canes, 2220, 2221——British Guiana, with an adequate supply of labour, could compete with any country in the world, in tropical productions, 2218. 2227–2231*——Remunerating price of sugar, 2224–2226——The negroes prefer working upon sugar estates to the cultivation of coffee, 2232, 2233——The law, as between labourer and employer, is arbitrary and ill understood, 2234–2236——Strikes amongst the negroes for wages, when the canes were fit for cutting, 2240–2244——The Portuguese immigrants have become very sickly, 2245, 2246——The reports of the ill health of the Hill Coolies are exaggerated, 2247–2251.

The negroes who settled upon abandoned estates can gain enough to indulge their love of finery, without wages, 2252–2259——The laws to prevent unauthorized squatting are sufficient, but from the great extent of country are difficult to be enforced, 2260–2276——The stipendiary magistrates are guided more by general equity and by

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Campbell, Mungo. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

instructions than by written laws, 2272–2286——The ordinances going from this country are to be executed by the stipendiary magistrates when they arrive in the colony, 2287–2294——The colony is governed by what is called a Court of Policy, 2295–2297——The coffee estates are very few in proportion to the sugar estates; this arises from the want of labour, 2298, 2299——Expense of passing up the canals in the colony, 2300–2306. 2308–2311——It would not be easy to irrigate the land, 2307——The planters combined lately to regulate the rate of wages, but they failed, 2312——Amount of immigration that would be beneficial to the colony, 2313–2316——There is plenty of capital in the country which might be applied to the cultivation of fresh land, if there were the means of obtaining labour, 2317–2319——In witness's estimate of the price at which sugar has been produced of late years, he left out all extra expenses for cottages; in some instances there are 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* left out, which would have greatly increased the expense of production, 2320.

Canals. See *Irrigation* (British Guiana).

Candler, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has visited the island of Jamaica, 7565–7570——Frequent complaints, on the part of the planters, of the want of sufficient or of continuous labour upon their estates; witness can scarcely fix a want of labourers upon any single estate; the complaints of the want of continuous labour are well founded, 7571–7576. 7589. 7699, 7700——Cause of the negro not working continuously; variation in the complaints in some districts as compared with others; causes of the difference, 7577–7584——The women, to a certain extent, still continue to labour, 7585, 7586——Witness saw many boys and girls, from ten to twelve years of age and upwards, working assiduously like their fathers and mothers, 7587, 7588——Employment of a number of African immigrants on the Hermitage estate, in the parish of St. George, belonging to Dr. Spalding, 7590–7595. 7746. 7905, 7906——Witness heard no special complaints in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East, of a want of labour, 7596–7598——The complaint of a general want of labourers is not well founded, 7599——Usual number of days in the week, and hours in the day, the negroes are generally employed in field labour, 7600–7603——Preference is given to jobwork over daywork by the labourer, when he can get more money by it; employment by jobwork is increasing; it should be encouraged, 7604–7608.

A large immigration of labourers into our colonies generally would be attended with a great many practical evils, 7609, 7610——Ill consequences to the immigrants themselves; unfavourable influence it would have upon the wages of the present labourers in Jamaica, 7611——Injurious effect to be anticipated upon the morals of the community, 7612–7614——No immigration ought to be permitted, unless with an equal proportion of the sexes, 7615——Rate of wages of the different classes of field labourers in Jamaica; amount of a day's work, and how ascertained, 7616–7622——Information as to the accumulation of property by negroes, 7623, 7624——High price of the necessary articles of consumption, 7625, 7626——Superior character of the houses built by the labourers; generally speaking, they were much better than the huts they had been used to live in, 7628——The formation of free settlements will not much affect the amount of labour given to the adjoining estates, 7629, 7630——The labourers from such settlements get a higher rate of wages than those located on the estates; they are generally a better class of people, 7631–7634——Whether the expense of cultivating estates on the average of years is greater now than it was during slavery, 7635–7639——There are very few resident proprietors of large estates in Jamaica, 7641.

Increased disposition on the part of the planters to encourage cheap production by means of the plough and other instruments, 7642——Increase of enterprise with regard to the improvement of estates; circumstances connected with a dispute between the masters and the labourers at the close of the apprenticeship in 1838, 7643–7646——Abandonment of estates in Jamaica, 7654–7657. 7797. 7802–3——General good character of the labourers, 7658——Improvement in their religious, moral, and social habits, 7659——Increase of trade generally throughout the island, 7660–7662. 7677——Successful and diligent cultivation by the negroes, of their grounds, 7663, 7664——They subscribe very largely to schools and churches, 7665——Establishment of benefit societies and savings banks, 7666——Indisposition of the negroes to avail themselves of medical aid when sick; consequent mortality, 7667, 7668. 7833–7838. 7891–7893——Extravagantly large taxation of the island, 7669–7671——Acquisition of political power by the negroes, 7672——Complaints made of the amount and mode of expenditure of the parochial taxes, 7673–7676. 7839——Inexpediency of encouraging any immigration of labourers, 7678——Purchase of an estate by witness in the parish of St. George, Jamaica, with the view of making a free settlement, 7679–7688——Evidence respecting witness's views in visiting Jamaica; sources from whence the information gained by him was derived, and value of the same, 7689–7698.

Lengthened examination regarding witness's assertion, that where the negroes were fairly and wisely treated, there was no complaint of a want of continuous labour, 7702–7745——The same with respect to the evils that would be caused by any great extent of immigration, 7746–7768. 7829–7832. 7840–7850——And also with respect to the wages

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Candler, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

wages of the labourers, and the rents paid by them for their houses and provision grounds, 7769–7792. 7812–7828——Falling off in the exports from Jamaica within the last ten years, and since the commencement of freedom, 7797–7811——Want of continuous labour felt in the parish of St. George, 7851, 7852——Witness's occupation previous to going to Jamaica, was that of a manager of a county fire office, 7853——Estates which made a profit in the year 1840; profit made on the Witney estate, in Clarendon, belonging to Lord Ward; Drax Hall estate, St. Anne's, 7859–7871——Estate of Charles Sconce, in the parish of Vere; wages on that estate, 7872–7878——Impossibility of applying the share system to sugar estates, 7879–7883——The plough might be more generally introduced in the cultivation of estates, 7887, 7888——It would not be better to drive out the sugar cane and leave the negro population to live upon their little holdings, 7889, 7890——Whether immigration on a small scale would have a prejudicial effect, 7894, 7895. 7904——The quantity of land that has been thrown out of cultivation is not of any great extent, 7896–7899——Planters in Jamaica are not paying large wages out of their capital, 7900–7903.

Cane Holeing (Jamaica). The hardest work is digging cane holes; the labourer often earns 3*s.* or 4*s.* per day at that work, *Geddes* 6727, 6728——This operation is done at a cheaper rate than it was previously to freedom; reason of this, *Ib.* 6729.

See also *Spanish Peons.*

CAPITAL:

I. *In the Colonies generally.*
II. *In particular Colonies:*
1. In British Guiana.
2. In Jamaica.

I. *In the Colonies generally:*

Deficiency of capital in the British colonies, *Barkly* 2467.

II. *In particular Colonies:*

1. British Guiana:

There is plenty of capital in the country, which might be applied to the cultivation of fresh land, if there were the means of obtaining labour, *Campbell* 2317–2319——General want of capital in the colony, *Allen* 3711.

2. In Jamaica:

Great want of capital felt throughout the island, *Spalding* 5895–5897, *Knibb* 6285, 6286; *Metcalfe* 7436——It is the want of capital in many cases that has interfered with the due cultivation of estates, *Knibb* 6022–6024——Whether a person possessing capital could make it answer on an estate in Jamaica, *Browne* 6577——There is a growing want of capital in the colony, but it is erroneous to suppose that the cultivation has in any degree suffered from this want of capital; efforts and sacrifices made by the planters, *Geddes* 6948——There is a great want of capital in Jamaica, and the attorneys of many estates which produce largely, are not furnished with the means of paying the wages weekly, *Candler* 7707.

See also *Immigration*, II. 2. iv. *Labour*, II. 7. ii. *Neilson, Robert. Wages*, IV. 1.

Carrington, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is acquainted with the island of Barbados; has devoted great attention to the present state of labour in the island, 1709–1713——Extent of witness's estates; how managed and cultivated, 1714–1717——Number of slaves witness had on his estates during slavery; it has considerably diminished since the alteration in the condition of the negroes, 1718–1721——Occasional complaints with regard to the want of continuous labour on the part of the labourers; improvements which have taken place within the last two years in this and every other respect, 1722–1724. 1728–1730——The produce of witness's estates has diminished since slavery; witness attributes it to the extreme drought that has taken place, 1725–1727——No extensive emigration could take place from Barbados, without injuriously affecting the cultivation of the land, 1731——Wages received by labourers on witness's estate, 1732–1737——Advantages that would be derived from a regular and uniform system of renting, 1737. 1742–1750. 1774——Marriage is a rite which only of late years has been practised in Barbados, 1738.

Extent to which the labourers on witness's estate occupy land belonging to the estate, 1739–1741——How the land rented by the negroes is cultivated, 1751——When the negroes cultivate sugar, the proprietor is at the whole expense of cutting and manufacturing it, and he receives back one-third of the produce, 1752——Allowances received by the negroes in addition to money wages, 1753——Evidence respecting their cultivation of their own land, 1754–1759——How rents are received from them for these lands, 1760–1767——Tenure of their houses, 1768——Very short notice is given on either side before giving up the holding, 1769–1771——Purchases of land by negroes have taken place to a very small extent in Barbados, 1772, 1773——Improvements which have taken place in the habits and general character of the negroes since freedom commenced,

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Carrington, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

commenced, 1775, *et seq.*——They have become more religious, so far as going to church is concerned, 1776——Schools which have been established; way in which the expenses of them have been defrayed, 1775–1781——The negroes in Barbados, generally speaking, profess Christianity, 1782, 1783.

The expense of cultivation has decidedly not been diminished since the abolition of slavery, 1784–1787——Average produce of cane-land upon witness's estate, per acre, 1788–1794——Labourers could not be spared from Barbados in the way of emigration; extent to which emigration has actually taken place from this colony; injury to the proprietors caused by this emigration, 1795–1803——The plough has been introduced into Barbados, but is not much used, 1804——Other agricultural implements have been introduced; difficulty in the way of using them; only advantages of having white men from England, such as a head ploughman, a head cattleman, a head blacksmith, and a head carpenter, 1804–1810. 1814–1825——Disposition on the part of the planters to adopt agricultural improvements; impediments in the way of this, 1811–1813——There is only one steam-engine in the island; the work is all done by wind, as the trade winds are constantly blowing, 1826.

The term apprenticeship has become a term of reproach; mischief accruing to the colony thereby, 1827–1830——Opinion that the system of rent would tend to cure this evil; it is the basis of all improvement in the island, 1830. 1844–1846——The planter would not get a remunerating price if sugar were cheaper than at present, 1831–1836. 1851, 1852——It was formerly considered that the rum and molasses paid the expenses of the estate, over the West Indies generally; this is by no means the case now, 1838–1840——The improved state of things within the last two years has improved the value of property generally in Barbados, 1841, 1842——Causes of the improvement in the dress of the natives, 1843, 1844——No emigrants could be spared from Barbados to other places, 1847, 1848——Evidence respecting the fertility of the soil in Barbados; the land is not so productive as in the other West India colonies, 1853–1864.

The negroes all have land, which furnishes them with abundant means of subsistence, from the means it gives them of raising stock, 1865——Number of days in the week the labourers work; number of hours reckoned a day's work, 1866–1872——System on witness's estate of resting land after a certain number of years' cultivation, 1873–1877——Extent to which machinery is used, 1878——Improvement in the revenues of the colony, 1879. 1887–1890——Expense of the rural police; it has been found efficient for police purposes, 1879–1886. 1888, 1889——Evidence as to the Court of Reconciliation; it is limited rather to domestic feuds and differences amongst the negroes themselves, than as between master and servant, 1892–1896——Polygamy is not a punishable offence; it is not so prevalent as it used to be, 1897, 1898——There was extreme difficulty with regard to domestic servants immediately following the termination of the apprenticeship; improvement which has taken place in this respect, 1899–1905——The population of the island of Barbados has kept up to the usual standard since emancipation, but there has not been an increase, 1906.

Cartage (Trinidad). The difficulty of cartage in many of the estates of the island is a great drawback to the production of such estates, *Church* 1182–1189.

Census:

British Guiana.—Impossibility of estimating the decrease in the number of negroes in British Guiana since the commencement of freedom; reason for a census being disallowed by the home Government, *Barkly* 2561.

Jamaica.—There has been no census of the island; it is desirable one should be taken, *M'Cornock* 4859, 4860; *Browne* 6542, 6543.

Character of the Negroes (St. Vincent). Copy of a despatch from Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley, dated 19th April 1842, forwarding reports from the stipendiary magistrates for the preceding half-year; remarks on the character of the black population; general condition of the peasantry, *App.* 746.

See also *Condition of the Negroes. Habits of the Negroes. Morals of the Negroes. Religious Instruction.*

Cherry Garden Estate (Jamaica). Evidence respecting the loss on the Cherry Garden estate, in the parish of St. Dorothy, within the last three years, *Bernal* 6450–6456——This estate has been subject to a very great drought during that time; this has been in some measure the cause of the loss, *Ib.* 6468. 6470–6473.

Children of the Negroes:

British Guiana.—Small number of children performing the light work upon the estates; reason of their being called "Stanleys;" these children vary from nine to fourteen years of age, *Barkly* 2541–2543——They have been put to handicraft trades by their parents to a great extent; they seem to think it a superior occupation to field labour, *Ib.* 2545——Reason assigned by the parents for not making their idle children work, *Ib.* 2546——Disinclination among the labourers, since freedom, to bring up their children to field labour, *Allen* 3583–3585.

Jamaica.—

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Children of the Negroes—continued.

Jamaica.—The children of the present negroes go into the field for the purpose of cultivating the cane; age at which they go to work, *Knibb* 6394–6401——Unwillingness of the young people to engage in field labour; their want of industrious habits, *Geddes* 6891, 6892. 6894. 6899. 6936–6944——Probable effect of an immediate introduction of fresh labourers in correcting the aversion on the part of the rising generation to field labour, *Ib.* 6949–6951——Witness saw many boys and girls, from 10 to 12 years of age and upwards, working assiduously like their fathers and mothers, *Candler* 7587, 7588.

Trinidad.—The children liberated since 1834 do not take to field labour; the parents imagine they will be able to live without it, *Church* 1277–1281.

See also *Female Labour.*

Christianity (British Guiana). Christianity has very widely extended in British Guiana since the commencement of freedom, *Allen* 3532–3534.

Christie, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is acquainted with the colony of Jamaica; is proprietor of three sugar estates there, 7107–7112——Practice with regard to the occupation of houses and lands by the labourers on those estates; quantity of provision ground usually allowed; rent paid, 7113–7126. 7132–7139——These grounds are capable of producing a very considerable money income to the labourers during the year, 7127–7130. 7140, 7141——This makes them to a great extent independent of the money wages they receive for their labour, 7131——Rate of wages witness pays his labourers; number of hours' work exacted; the wages are paid weekly, 7142–7152——Number of days they will work in a week; witness's manager contracted with them that they should work five days in the week, 7153–7158——Bargain made that unless they worked five days a week they should not be paid for the time they did work; this led to disputes, and they sometimes left the estates, 7159–7163.

Labour enough cannot be got to cultivate the estates to the extent required, 7164——Whether if there were more labour there would be men enough, 7164–7166——A great many of them have saved money and bought land; quantities in which they buy it; price usually paid, 7167–7182——The number of labourers upon witness's estate is considerably less than it was during slavery; the quantity of work performed is much less, 7183–7186——Diminution in the quantity of cane land on the estate; diminution in the produce of sugar, 7187–7193——Not being able to get continuous labour the first year of freedom, was the principal cause of the reduced produce, 7199——Witness has had African immigrants upon his estate; they are more to be depended upon for labour than the Creoles, 7200–7206——Improvements made on witness's estates with respect to machinery, 7207–7214——Witness has lost money by his estates every year since freedom, 7215——The principal causes of this change have been the reduced crops, and the high rate of wages; the cause of the reduced crops is the want of labour, 7216, 7217——The only remedy witness can suggest is a supply of immigrants from the coast of Africa, 7218–7221.

Injurious effects of allowing the labourers an unlimited quantity of provision ground, 7222, 7223——A system of rents would be beneficial, 7224. 7235, 7236——Number of labourers it would be necessary to introduce into Jamaica, in order to produce a sensible impression upon the labour market, 7225–7230——The population of the island is increasing rapidly from natural causes, 7231——Improvement in the habits and character of the negro population since freedom, 7232–7234——Number of hours the labourers work in the boiling-house during crop, 7237, 7238——Amount of wages paid to the class of labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar, 7239——Amount of sugar usually made per day, 7240——Extent to which the women give labour upon witness's estates, 7241, 7242——Witness expects a larger crop this year than in the preceding years, from the labour being rather more continuous, 7243, 7244.

The island would be able to pay the expense of an extensive immigration if the people could be got, 7245–7250——There is a sufficient quantity of floating capital in the island to secure the required amount of labour, and to pay the wages punctually, 7251–7258——Many estates have been abandoned in the east end of the island, 7259–7261——There would not be an estate that would pay its way if the price of sugar were reduced 10 *s.* a hogshead, 7262——It is not possible to reduce the cost of production of sugar in Jamaica, except by reducing the price of labour, and increasing the quantity of it, 7263–7269——Evidence to show that free labour cannot compete with slave labour, 7270–7276——The difficulties arising from the want of labour are general throughout Jamaica, 7277–7281——Estimate of the probable production of sugar this year in Jamaica; production last year; and in the time of slavery, 7282–7287.

Church, Robert Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is acquainted with the colony of Trinidad; was a planter there, and agent for an absent proprietor; was agent and had the chief superintendence of Harmony Hall and Paradise estates, 1072–1078——Laws and ordinances by which witness regulated his contracts with labourers, 1079–1081——Process of ejectment, 1082–1088——Disputes between witness and his labourers

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Church, Robert Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

were settled by reference to the stipendiary magistrate, 1089——The labourers are much better lodged than they were during slavery, 1090–1093——Establishing a payment of rent by labourers would be very useful, 1094–1096——Witness's contracts with his labourers are merely implied, 1097——How their wages are paid; average rate of money wages, 1098–1102. 1126–1129. 1191, 1192——The labour is better performed when working by the task than by the day, 1103–1119.

The planting of the canes in the island of Trinidad is totally distinct and different from any other island; the cultivation is carried on entirely by the hoe; description of the system, 1120–1125. 1133–1152——The holeing is principally done by jobbing gangs of Spanish peons; they are more valuable for that particular work, and for felling trees, 1129–1132. 1148–1151——The heaviest expense in cane fields in Trinidad is the weeding; total expense of weeding an acre of canes for the year, 1153–1160——Other expenses of the cultivation of the cane field, from the time of weeding down to the time of bringing the canes to the mill, 1161–1167——Cost of cultivating an acre of woodland in Trinidad, on Paradise estate, producing two hogsheads of sugar, *Ev. p.* 97——Cost of cultivating an acre of ratoon canes, yielding one hogshead and a half of sugar per acre, *Ib.* 98——The plough is not used in Trinidad; in Grenada it is, 1168——Impossibility of economising labour in Trinidad by the use of machinery, 1169–1181——The difficulty of cartage in many of the estates of the island is a great drawback, 1182–1189——Stock kept by witness on his estate, 1190.

Difference between the two periods of freedom and slavery with reference to the number of hours the labourers attend, 1193–1203——Proportion of male and female labourers on witness's estates; the women are better workers than the men in general; number of children employed, 1205–1210——Labour is less continuous than it was during slavery; injury produced in the manufacture of sugar thereby, 1212–1214——Planters are so much afraid of diminishing the supply of labour by offending the labourers, that they are obliged to pay for the work, whether well or ill done, 1215——Terms upon which the immigrants on witness's estates were hired by him, 1216–1224——Whether, in case of diminishing the quantity of land in cultivation, and gaining an equal produce by increased skill and labour, the expense of cultivation would be diminished, 1225, 1226. 1250–1254——It would be quite impossible for witness to hire as large a number of labourers as he employed slaves on his estates during slavery, 1227–1230——Extent to which estates in Trinidad have decreased in value; principal cause of that decrease, 1231–1234.

Witness would suggest wholesome laws and extensive immigration as the best remedy for the deficiency of labour; description of laws suggested, 1235–1249——There has been little alteration in the habits and mode of life of the negroes since emancipation, 1255, *et seq.*——They attend church better than they did; the children never attended school when slaves; they do now, 1257–1263——Number of tasks witness's labourers will do in a week, 1264——His labourers occupy as much land with their houses as they choose to cultivate, 1265——The old and infirm are always taken care of by their relations, 1266——Ejectment is not resorted to, 1267——Witness has never known any instance in Trinidad of estates or plantations being purchased by negroes, 1270——None of the negroes manufacture sugar for themselves, 1271——Produce cultivated by them upon their own account, 1272–1274——The labourers who get rich do not continue to work, 1275, 1276——The children liberated since 1834 do not take to field labour; the parents imagine they will be able to live without it, 1277–1281——A system of leasing out houses and land to labourers would have a tendency to increase the feeling of attachment to their home, 1282——A wholesome system of laws is the first thing that ought to be done for the British colonies, if they are to be retained as any valuable appendage to the British Crown, 1284.

[Second Examination.]—Detail of the whole cost of the cultivation and manufacture of the produce of an acre of cane-land in Harmony Hall and Paradise estates, in Trinidad, 1287–1298——Cost of cultivating an acre of wood or brush land producing two hogsheads of sugar, *Ev. p.* 107——Cost of cultivating an acre of ratoon canes yielding one and half hogshead, *Ib.* 108——Lengthened examination upon these estimates, 1299–1342——Whether, if labour were rendered more continuous, the planters in Trinidad could afford to pay the present rate of wages, 1343, 1344——The present amount of labour is sufficient for the quantity of land in cultivation, provided that labour could be made continuous, 1345, 1346——A great deal more land on witness's estates might be brought into cultivation if they had more labour, 1347–1351.

An increase of wages would render the negroes more indisposed to labour, 1352–1359——A sufficient number of immigrants would lower wages, 1360, 1361——The price of labour in Trinidad is not regulated by the price at which the produce sells, 1363–1370——Some years must elapse before the plough can be used to good advantage in Trinidad, 1371–1375——Number of immigrants that would find employment, supposing the present labouring population would work continuously at five tasks per week, 1376–1382——The purchase of land by labourers has not taken place to any great extent in Trinidad,

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Church, Robert Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Trinidad, 1383–1390——Reduction of wages, witness contemplates, would enable him to pursue the cultivation of his estates profitably, 1391–1395. 1402——Number of plantations which have been abandoned since slavery in consequence of the scarcity of labour, 1396–1400. 1419–1422——Comparative statement of the produce of sugar of Harmony Hall and Paradise estates during the three last years of slavery, the three years of apprenticeship, and since the commencement of freedom, 1403–1409.

Great facility for the negroes buying land at the present time in Trinidad, 1410–1416——Great increase in the revenues of Trinidad in the last 10 years; this is a proof of the increased prosperity of the peasantry; there has been great increase of distress and difficulty simultaneously among the planters, 1424–1426——The extraordinary amount of imports are not all for Trinidad consumption; a large proportion is re-exported to the Spanish Main; an extensive system of barter is carried on, 1426–1428-9——The year 1841 was a peculiarly fine season for taking off the crop, 1430, 1431.

Churches:

Antigua.—Increase in the number of churches since the establishment of freedom, *Nugent* 2857, 2858. 2060–2070——Efforts made by the negroes themselves to supply funds for building churches, *Ib.* 2859.

British Guiana.—The negroes subscribed for a church on the island of Leguan, *Campbell* 2190——Contributions of the negroes for the purpose of church building or school building, *Barkly* 2443, 2444——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 29 April 1842, relative to opening of a new church at Queenstown; observations of the governor on his tour on the Essequibo coast, *App.* 716.

See also *Education*, II. 2. *Religious Instruction*, II. 2,

Civilization. See *Roads.*

Classes of Labourers:

Jamaica.—Classes of labourers witness has on his coffee plantations, *Spalding* 5646.

St. Kitts.—Different classes of labourers; wages paid; number of hours' work done daily, *Estridge* 3037–3050.

See also *Golden Grove Estate* (Jamaica). *Wages*, VII.

Clergy (British Guiana). The salaries of the clergy are paid out of the colonial chest, *Campbell* 2191–2194.

Climate:

Antigua.—Respect in which the climate of Antigua enables the planters to have a better command of labour in this colony than in most of the others, *Nugent* 2916–2919.

British Guiana.—Witness would not recommend white men to go out to be at the head of departments, such as ploughing, cattle, &c., on account of the climate, *Barkly* 2587–2591.

See also *Immigration. White Immigrants.*

Cocoa. The cultivation of cocoa does not require continuous labour to the same degree that sugar cultivation does, *Barkly* 2701, 2702.

See also *Metairie System of Cultivation and Tenancy*, 3.

Coffee:

British Guiana.—The negroes prefer working upon sugar estates to the cultivation of coffee, *Campbell* 2232–2233——The coffee estates are very few in proportion to the sugar estates; this arises from the want of labour, *Ib.* 2298, 2299.

Jamaica.—Proportion in which the produce of coffee has diminished on witness's estates since the commencement of freedom, *Spalding* 5665——Some of the negroes cultivate coffee on the land they purchase for themselves, *Ib.* 5809——Coffee estates require quite as much labour as sugar estates, *Ib.* 5861–5865.

See also *British Guiana*, 1. *European Emigrants. Hawking and Peddling Act* (Jamaica). *Machinery*, 5. *Provision Grounds.*

Coleman, Mr. See *Complaints of Labourers* (British Guiana).

Colquhoun, Mr. See *Cultivation of Sugar*, III. *Metairie System of Cultivation and Tenancy*, 3.

Combination Act (St. Vincent). See *Contracts of Hiring*, 7.

Commandants of Quarters (Trinidad). Witness would recommend the commandants of quarters to be re-appointed, for the purpose of securing such continuous labour as to enable the importation of a smaller number of immigrants to suffice for the purposes of cultivation; principal duties of the commandants, *Burnley* 813–817. 830–840. 849, 850——Explanation with reference to the portion of former evidence respecting the powers of commandants of quarters, *Ib.* 908.

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Compensation Money. A great portion of the compensation received in British Guiana at the time of emancipation has been expended in endeavouring to induce the labourers to work and in keeping up the estates, *Barkly* 2524, 2525——Witness has devoted the whole of the sum received by him as compensation to the cultivation of his estate in Jamaica, *Spalding* 5888–5890.

See also *Machinery*, 3. *Mortgages* (Jamaica).

COMPETITION OF LABOUR:

1. *Generally.*
2. *In Jamaica.*

1. *Generally:*

Opinion of the Committee that the state of things in the West Indies arises partly from the high wages which the insufficiency of the supply of labour and their competition with each other, naturally compel the planters to pay, but is principally to be attributed to the easy terms upon which the use of land has been obtainable by negroes, *Rep.* 4——Opinion of the Committee that the most desirable mode of endeavouring to compensate for the diminished supply of labour is to promote the immigration of a fresh labouring population to such an extent as to create competition for employment, *Ib.* 5.

2. *In Jamaica:*

The conduct of the negroes who have been hitherto introduced has been perfectly satisfactory; there is no jealousy subsisting between them and the other labouring population of the island; there has been occasionally a little competition of labour, *Metcalfe* 7449–7451.

See also *Continuous Labour. Cultivation of Sugar*, IV. 3. *Immigration*, II. 2. ii. *Labour. Wages*, III. 1., VII.

Complaints of Labourers (British Guiana). Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 19th January 1842, transmitting copy of letter from Captain Coleman, concerning complaints of labourers, *App.* 659.

CONDITION OF THE NEGROES:

1. *Generally.*
2. *In Barbados.*
3. *In British Guiana.*
4. *In Jamaica.*
5. *In St. Vincent.*

1. *Generally:*

Improved morals; rapid advance in civilization, and increased sense of the value of property and independence among the negro population, *Rep.* 4.

2. *In Barbados:*

Copy of despatch from Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley, dated 19th April 1842, forwarding reports from the local magistrates, with abstract of replies on the general character and condition of the peasantry, &c., *App.* 753——Letter from J. P. Mayers, esq. to J. S. Pakington, Esq. M. P. dated 11 July 1842, on the state of the labouring class in Barbados; that the population is not more than sufficient for the cultivation of the colony, *Ib.* 764.

3. *In British Guiana:*

The general condition of the labourers has improved very much indeed since emancipation, *Scoble* 4252.

4. *In Jamaica:*

The labourers in Jamaica are decidedly better off than the labourers of this country, *Knibb* 6275.

5. *In St. Vincent:*

Improvement of the negroes since the emancipation, *Grant* 360, 361.

See also *Barbados*, 2. *British Guiana*, 2. *Education. Freeholds* (Jamaica). *Habits of the Negroes. Labour. Lucia, St. Luxuries. Morals of the Negroes. Trelawney* (Jamaica.)

Conduct of the Negroes (British Guiana). Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 13th January 1842, relative to the peaceable conduct of the labourers, notwithstanding the excitement caused by the publication of the new rules; new rules not adopted in Berbice, *App.* 653.——*See* also *Morals of the Negroes.*

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CONTINUOUS LABOUR:

I. *Want of Continuous Labour in the West India Colonies generally:*

II. *Evidence respecting the Want of it in particular Colonies:*

1. Barbados.
2. British Guiana.
3. Jamaica:
   - i. General Complaints of the Want of Continuous Labour.
   - ii. Causes from which this Want of Labour has proceeded.
   - iii. Diminished Produce of the Island to be attributed chiefly to the Insufficiency of Labour.
   - iv. Uselessness of the Attempts made to correct the Evil.
4. St. Kitts.
5. Trinidad.

I. *Want of Continuous Labour in the West India Colonies generally:*

Opinion of the Committee that the great diminution in the staple productions of the West Indies, which has caused serious and in some cases ruinous injury to proprietors, is to be attributed chiefly to the want of steady and continuous labour, *Rep.* 4.

II. *Evidence respecting the Want of it in particular Colonies:*

1. Barbados:

Great want of continuous labour, *Sharpe* 1531, 1532——The number of labourers in the island is sufficient, if the labour could be made continuous, *Ib.* 1537, 1538——Advancing the wages has had no effect in making work continuous, *Ib.* 1539–1543.

2. British Guiana:

The great fertility of Demerara is thrown away for want of labour to till it, *Campbell* 2031–2033. 2046–2054——Total estimated loss in three years upon five estates in Demerara on account of the want of continuous labour, *Ib.* 2096–2098——Diminution of labourers on those estates since emancipation, *Ib.* 2099–2101——The distress existing amongst the proprietors and planters of British Guiana may be attributed to the inadequate supply of labour, *Barkly* 2369. 2435, 2436; *Allen* 3670–3674——Impossibility, in the present circumstances of British Guiana, of estates being kept up without a supply of continuous labour, *Barkly* 2547, 2548.

The planter could afford to pay the present wages for labour if it were continuous, *Allen* 3554–3558. 3619–3621——The system of continuous labour is on the increase, *Ib.* 3730–3733——Further inducements which should be held out by the planters beyond those already held out, in order to enable them to obtain continuous labour from the negroes, *Scoble* 4329–4336. 4344–4348. 4359.

3. Jamaica:

i. General Complaint of the Want of Continuous Labour:

The labour upon witness's estates would be sufficient if the negroes would work continuously, *Lowndes* 5040–5047——The want of continuous labour is general throughout the island, *Ib.* 5048, 5049. 5062–5065; *Knibb* 5963, 5964; *Geddes* 6845–6852——Great complaints of the want of continuous labour; an increase of labourers is the best remedy for these complaints, *St. John* 7032, 7033——The existing number of labourers in Jamaica would be sufficient, if they worked industriously and continuously, *Ib.* 7037.

Frequent complaints on the part of the planters of the want of sufficient or of continuous labour upon their estates; witness can scarcely fix a want of labourers upon any single estate; the complaints of the want of continuous labour are well founded, *Candler* 7571–7576. 7589. 7699, 7700.

ii. Causes from which this Want of Labour has proceeded:

The difficulty of obtaining continuous labour has been found greatest in those parts of the island where the negroes have the greatest facility of maintaining themselves by the occupation of land on their own account, *Knibb* 6273, 6274——To what the habit of not working continuously may be attributed, *Geddes* 6769–6771; *St. John* 7006, 7007——Cause of the negro not working continuously; variation in the complaints in some districts as compared with others, *Candler* 7577–7584. 7702–7745.

iii. Diminished Produce of the Island to be attributed chiefly to the Insufficiency of Labour:

The diminished produce of Jamaica may be attributed chiefly to the insufficiency of continuous labour; the extent of the diminution for the whole island is about one-half, *M'Cornock* 4870; *Spalding* 5868–5871; *Knibb* 6371–6378——Ratio in which the produce of two sugar estates under witness's charge has fallen off since the abolition of slavery; it may be attributed to the want of labour, *Barrett* 5199–5220——Manner in which the cultivation of an estate is prejudiced by the want of more continuous labour,

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Continuous Labour—Want of it in particular Colonies—continued.

3. Jamaica—iii. Diminished Produce of the Island, &c.—*continued.*

Spalding 5668, 5669——The want of continuous labour is one of the chief causes of the distress experienced in the colony of Jamaica, *Bernal* 6464-6466——Extent to which estates have been injured by the diminution of continuous labour, *Geddes* 6779, 6780.

iv. Uselessness of the Attempts made to correct the Evil:

Witness has tried to compel more continuous labour by reducing wages, but has always found it fail, *Barrett* 5265-5273. 5303——The labourers on witness's estates never did work continuously by any means; witness had no command over them in that respect; they seldom work more than four days in the week, *Spalding* 5543-5554——Witness on one estate has imposed a fine in the shape of a double rent upon those who did not work five days in the week; this succeeded in some measure, *Ib.* 5555-5568.

A new law to compel the labourer to give more continuous labour when he once consented to work, would be advantageous, *Barrett* 5322-5339——No new laws that could be passed would render labour more continuous, *Spalding* 5722-5724——Impossibility of supplying the want of continuous labour by hiring negroes from other quarters, *Geddes* 6776-6778.

4. St. Kitts:

Labour generally is less continuous now than it was during slavery, *Estridge* 3051-3057. 3092.

5. Trinidad:

The want of continuous labour is the principal difficulty under which the planters labour; whether any law could be devised which would meet the difficulties which exist, *Bushe* 3835-3844——Continuous labour is most important when they are engaged about the manufacture of sugar, *Ib.* 3862-3864

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, I. *Capital*, II. 1. *Cocoa. Commandants of Quarters* (Trinidad). *Competition of Labour. Contracts of Hiring*, 5. *Cultivation of Sugar*, IV. 1. *Expenses of Cultivation* (Jamaica). *George's, St.* (Jamaica). *Immigration. Labour. Native Labour. Purchases of Land by the Natives. Sugar. Task-Work*, 3. *Taxation. Thomas, St., in-the-East* (Jamaica). *Wages*, VI. 1.

Contracts of Hiring:

1. *In Antigua.*
2. *In Barbados.*
3. *In British Guiana.*
4. *In Jamaica.*
5. *In St. Kitts.*
6. *In Trinidad.*
7. *In St. Vincent.*

1. *In Antigua:*

The contract law in Antigua, which regulates the relations between master and servant, has prevented any difficulty, *Nugent* 2815-2821.

2. *In Barbados:*

The labourers will not agree to enter into contracts, *Sharpe* 1455, 1456.

3. *In British Guiana:*

Laws or ordinances in force for the regulation of the contracts of hiring between employer and labourer, *Barkly* 2333-2335——Contracts should be made and acted on with an equal consideration for both contracting parties, *Allen* 3591-3595——Amendment suggested in the law regulating contracts between the employer and the labourer, *Ib.* 3715-3729.

4. *In Jamaica:*

The laws in Jamaica regarding contracts between master and servant are perfectly satisfactory to the authorities of the colony, *Burge* 4484, 4485——Difficulty of getting written or even verbal contracts for labour, *Spalding* 5725-5727——Evidence respecting the employment of negro workmen in contracts performed under witness's superintendence as colonial engineer; rate of wages, &c., *St. John* 7008-7031——Nature of the contracts made between workmen and masters; sufficiency of the laws for the enforcement of the same, *Ib.* 7038-7045.

5. *In St. Kitts:*

There is no contract law to regulate the relations between labourer and employer, *Estridge* 3008-3014——Manner in which contracts for the hiring of labourers are made, *Ib.* 3033-3036——The only way to make labour continuous in the island, would be by having a contract law; compelling people to enter into contracts for labour, *Ib.* 3105-3113. 3295-3301.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

CONTRACTS OF HIRING—continued.

6. *In Trinidad:*

Evidence respecting the laws regulating the contracts between masters and labourers, *Burnley* 590; *Bushe* 4061-4063——The proprietors are anxious the labourers should enter into written agreements; objection of the labourers to do so, *Burnley* 592–594——Redress in case of non-performance of any verbal contract, by either employer or labourer, *Ib.* 595, 596——How the practice pursued by the colonial authorities has deterred labourers from entering into contracts for labour, *Ib.* 747.

It would be advantageous to make the contracts legal, especially those made out of the island; the contracts should be made according to the market rate of wages existing in the island, *Burnley* 748. 779——Further evidence as to the anxiety of the proprietors to have written contracts with the labourers; the labourers invariably refuse, *Ib.* 825–827——Laws and ordinances by which witness regulated his contracts with labourers, *Church* 1079–1081——These contracts were merely implied, *Ib.* 1097.

7. *In St. Vincent:*

In the island of St. Vincent there is a law, sent out by the Government, regulating contracts of hiring between labourers and employers, *Grant* 6–9——There are, also, a Combination Act and an Ejectment Act, *Ib.* 10–16——The usual contracts for employment are for a month, by parole before witnesses; if for a longer time, they must be made before a special magistrate, *Ib.* 17–23. 31——Labourers have no objection to such contracts, but would be reluctant to enter into contracts for a year, *Ib.* 24–26. 313–317——They generally continue after the month, and a renewal of work without notice on either side is held to be a renewal of contract, *Ib.* 27–30——If the labourer breaks his contract, a fine is levied, half for the master, and half for the treasury, and he is imprisoned if he does not pay it, *Ib.* 33–38.

See also *Immigration*, II. 1. iii. *Monthly Contracts.* *Wages*, IV. 2.

Contracts of Tenancy (Jamaica). Written contracts entered into by witness with the workpeople, with respect to their tenancies; slight value attached to the contracts, *Geddes* 6662–6664——These contracts were usually commenced with a weekly, but ended in an annual tenancy, *Ib.* 6666–6669——An attempt to make it part of the contract for the occupation of the house, that the man should give his work, was found totally futile, *Ib.* 6673, 6674.

Cotton. See *British Guiana*, 1.

Court of Chancery (St. Vincent). Complaints of the Court of Chancery presided over by the Governor, *Grant* 437-439.

Court of Policy (British Guiana). The colony of British Guiana is governed by what is called a court of policy, *Campbell* 2295–2297——Certain members of the court of policy in British Guiana are elected; qualification necessary for an elector, *Allen* 3740–3752.

Court of Reconciliation (Barbados). It is limited rather to domestic feuds and differences amongst the negroes themselves, than as between master and servant, *Carrington* 1892–1896.

Courts of Law. See *Administration of Justice.*

CRIME:

I. *In British Guiana.*

II. *In Jamaica:*

1. Generally.
2. Papers laid before the Committee.

III. *In St. Vincent.*

I. *In British Guiana:*

State of crime in the colony, *Scoble* 4285, 4286.

II. *In Jamaica:*

1. Generally:

Crime is decreasing in Jamaica at the present time, *Knibb* 6087——Crime has been rather on the increase within the last two years, *Metcalfe* 7442–7444.

2. Papers laid before the Committee:

Copy of despatch from Sir C. T. Metcalfe, dated 14th May 1842, to Lord Stanley, enclosing statement of convictions in Jamaica, 1839-1841; and showing the gradual increase of crime during the three years, *App.* 641——Statement of the number and nature of convictions for all offences in the county courts of assize and parochial courts of quarter sessions, holden in island of Jamaica, during a period of three years, ending 31st August 1841, *Ib.*

Report, 1842—*continued.*

CRIME—continued.

III. *In St. Vincent:*

State of crime in St. Vincent's, *Grant* 362-366.

See also *Administration of Justice. Thomas, St., in-the-East* (Jamaica).

Crops:

Jamaica.—Evidence respecting the effect of the seasons upon the crops of 1838, 1839, 1840 and 1841, *M'Cornock* 4672-4687——Number of hogsheads of sugar reckoned a good crop; weight of a hogshead of sugar in Jamaica, *Ib.* 4794-4796.

St. Vincent.—Estimated crop of St. Vincent's in the present year, *Grant* 105——Rotation of crops observed at St. Vincent's minutely described, nature of manure used, &c. *Ib.* 116-131——Table showing the average crops during the slavery period for the five years 1820-24, 1828 and 1829, during the apprenticeship for the year 1836, and the first application of imported manure to the crops of the years 1837 to 1841, both inclusive, *Ev. p.* 18.

See also *Cultivation. Ejectment of Labourers,* I. 2, 3. *Machinery,* 3. *Manufacture of Sugar. Provision Grounds. Sugar. Task Work,* 5.

Crown Lands (Trinidad). One of the great grievances the proprietors have to complain of is the negroes cultivating public or Crown lands without permission; the greater part of the squatters fix themselves upon Crown lands, *Burnley* 632-635——To what the increase in the item of quit-rent upon the sale of Crown lands may be attributed, *Ib.* 1024-1027.

See also *Squatters,* 2. 4.

Cuba. There is much intercourse between Jamaica and Cuba, there is no obstacle in the way of free intercourse, *Burge* 4950, 4951——Price of sugar in Cuba, *Spalding* 5853, 5854. 5905-5907. 5949-5956——Evidence respecting the present state of slavery in Cuba, *Geddes* 6834-6838.

See also *Immigration,* II. 2. i. *Soil.*

Cultivation:

Antigua.—The expense of cultivating an estate in Antigua at the present time is just beyond the amount of slave labour, *Nugent* 2837-2839.

Barbados.—The expense of cultivation has decidedly not been diminished since the abolition of slavery, *Carrington* 1784-1787.

British Guiana.—Much less work is done in every stage of cultivation since emancipation; production has fallen off one half, and some estates have been put out of cultivation, *Campbell* 2020-2025——Diminution that has taken place in the extent of land under cultivation since the emancipation, *Barkly* 2339-2341——Witness is not aware of the great extent of difficulty and distress with regard to the cultivation of British Guiana that is alleged by the planters to have existed there, *Allen* 3334.

Grenada.—Witness has not known of any estates that have actually been thrown out of cultivation, but has known many where the crop has been so much reduced as to be nearly equivalent to it, *Barkly* 2726.

Jamaica.—Only one-third of the land that is really available is in cultivation in Jamaica, *Geddes* 6650, 6651——There are no estates in Jamaica incapable of being kept in cultivation, *Metcalfe* 7440, 7441——Whether the expense of cultivating estates on the average of years is greater now than it was during slavery, *Candler* 7635-7639.

Kitts, St.—Explanation of the cultivation of an estate in St. Kitts being more expensive than it was during slavery, *Estridge* 3203.

Trinidad.—Whether it would be possible to obtain the same return of produce at a diminished expense, by reducing the quantity of land in cultivation, *Burnley* 662——Tendency among the negroes to collect in the towns, rather than live in the country districts, *Ib.* 798-800——In cases in which they become possessed of lands themselves, they cultivate them but very little indeed, *Ib.* 801. 807, 808——Whether, in case of diminishing the quantity of land in cultivation, and gaining an equal produce by increased skill and labour, the expense of cultivation would be diminished, *Church* 1225, 1226. 1250-1254.

St. Vincent's.—Possibility of reducing the quantity of land under sugar cultivation, and increasing the returns by improved cultivation and manure, exemplified, *Grant* 236.

See also *Antigua. Barbados,* 1. *British Guiana,* 1. *Capital,* II. 1, 2. *Compensation Money. Continuous Labour,* II. 3. iii. *Cultivation of Sugar. Expenses of Cultivation* (Jamaica). *Free Labour. Free Settlements. Grenada. Immigration,* II. 2. iii. *Jamaica. Kitts, St. Labour. Machinery. Paradise Estate* (Trinidad). *Pasture Land. Plough,* The. *Price of Sugar. Provision Grounds. Purchases of Land by the Natives. Value of Estates. Wages,* IV. 4; VI. 1, 2.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR:

I. *In Antigua.*
II. *In Barbados.*
III. *In British Guiana.*
IV. *In Jamaica:*
1. Generally.
2. Tables showing the Expense of Cultivation.
3. Possibility of reducing the Expense.
V. *In St. Lucia.*
VI. *In Trinidad.*
VII. *In St. Vincent.*

I. *In Antigua:*

A greater degree of economy might be introduced into the cultivation of sugar in Antigua, *Nugent* 2969–2971. 2975, 2976.

II. *In Barbados:*

When the negroes cultivate sugar, the proprietor is at the whole expense of cutting and manufacturing it, and he receives back one third of the produce, *Carrington* 1752.

III. *In British Guiana:*

Account given in of the expenses of cultivating sugar on the plantations Endeavour, Aurora, and Enterprise, *Campbell* 2091——The negroes are deeply interested *in* maintaining the existing cultivation of sugar, *Barkly* 2615–2617——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 10th February 1842, transmitting corrected copy of account of expense of cultivating one acre of ground to produce 1¼ hogshead of sugar, *App.* 697.

IV. *In Jamaica:*

1. Generally:

Statement in detail of the system of cultivation of a sugar plantation until the canes are ripe, *Barrett* 5278–5287——The cultivation of sugar is retrograding in Hanover; this is owing to the want of continuous labour, *Ib.* 5353–5358——The cultivation of sugar is not likely to be carried on by the negroes, even if the white inhabitants are unable to pursue it, *Spalding* 5810, 5811.

2. Tables showing the Expense of Cultivation:

Table of the actual employment for one day of 152 apprentices (75 males and 77 females) on an estate making 100 hogsheads of sugar, taken about December 1837, during the apprenticeship in Jamaica, *Ev. p.* 370——Return of labourers at work upon an estate in Jamaica, *Ib.* 371——Amount of wages paid to labourers only for the cultivation of canes and contingencies of an estate in Jamaica which made 81 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum in 1841, *Ib.*——Amount of contingencies of a sugar estate in Jamaica, not including labourers' wages, for 81 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum, made in 1841, *Ib.*——Expenditure and proceeds of an estate in Jamaica for a crop of 81 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum made in 1841, *Ib.* 371, 372.

3. Possibility of reducing the Expense:

The only possibility of reducing the expense of cultivation would be by the importation of immigrants; it would produce a competition of labour which would reduce wages, *Barrett* 5288–5292——Respects in which there might be a saving in the production of sugar, *Knibb* 6214.

V. *In St. Lucia:*

Copy of a despatch from Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley, dated 16th May 1842, enclosing communication from Colonel Graydon in answer to Lord Stanley's despatch of 26th January 1842 (No. 17), and letter from Mr. Colquhoun on the plan of cultivation of canes "in halves," *App.* 741.

VI. *In Trinidad:*

The planting of the canes in the island of Trinidad is totally distinct and different from any other island; the cultivation is carried on entirely by the hoe; description of the system, *Church* 1120–1125. 1133–1152——The heaviest expense in cane-fields in Trinidad is the weeding; total expense of weeding an acre of canes for the year, *Ib.* 1153–1160——Expenses of the cultivation of the cane-field from the time of weeding down to the time of bringing the canes to the mill, *Ib.* 1161–1167.

Attempts have been made in Trinidad to induce the negroes to cultivate the sugar cane with a view to their own profit; failure of the attempt, *Burnley* 653, 654——The sugar cultivation might be increased to any required extent by sufficient immigration, *Ib.* 914.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR—continued.

VII. *In St. Vincent:*

No more than a third of St. Vincent is under sugar cultivation, *Grant* 109–112——Detailed statement of the entire system of cultivation of a sugar estate, *Ib.* 227——Application of machinery to the cultivation and manufacture of sugar; it may be used extensively in the latter, but not in the former, *Ib.* 229–235——Mode of conveying the sugar to maket from the estates, *Ib.* 318–325——Effects of throwing many sugar estates out of cultivation upon the prosperity of the island, *Ib.* 349.

See also *Calder Estate* (St. Vincent). *Coffee Cultivation. Hawking and Peddling Act* (Jamaica). *Immigration* II. 2. iv. *Jamaica. Metairie System of Cultivation and Tenancy*, 3. 5.

D.

Darling, Mr. Extract from evidence given by Mr. Darling before the Agricultural Committee of Trinidad, dated 8th May 1841, *App.* 586.

David's, St. Parish, (Jamaica). See *Thomas, St., in-the-East Parish* (Jamaica).

Day-work. See *Job-work. Hours of Labour. Labour. Task-work.*

Demerara. See *British Guiana.*

Depreciation of Estates (St. Vincent's). Sugar estates are depreciated one-third in value since 1833; mountain land has increased in value, *Grant* 204–207——Causes of the depreciation of sugar estates, *Ib.* 218–224.

Dissenters. See *Religion.*

Divisions of the Committee. On the 5th Resolution, *Rep.* 9—On the 7th Resolution, *Ib.* 10—On the 9th Resolution, *Ib.* 11—On the 10th and 12th Resolutions, *Ib.*—On the 11th Resolution, *Ib.* 11. 13, 14.

Doherty, Colonel. See *Emigration*, II. 2.

Domestic Servants (Barbados). There was extreme difficulty with regard to domestic servants immediately following the termination of the apprenticeship; improvement which has taken place in this respect, *Carrington* 1899–1905.

Domingo, St. Law regulating the trade between Jamaica and St. Domingo; it prohibits any intercourse between that part of St. Domingo which belonged to France and Jamaica; this prohibition might now advantageously cease, *M'Cornock* 4938; *Burge* 4939–4949; *Knibb* 6106–6114——It would be to the benefit of the people if the intercourse between St. Domingo and Jamaica were free, *Spalding* 5928–5931——The population of St. Domingo would not furnish free emigrants for Jamaica, *Knibb* 6115.

Drax Hall Estate (Jamaica). Profit made on this estate in 1841, *Knibb* 6379, 6380——Evidence respecting Drax Hall estate, in the parish of Trelawney, *Geddes* 6781–6784.

Dress of the Natives:

Barbados.—Cause of the improvement in the dress of the natives, *Carrington* 1843, 1844.

Jamaica.—Tendency of the negroes to dress, *St. John* 7074, 7075.

Droughts (Jamaica). The deficiency in the produce of Jamaica may, in some measure, be attributed to the droughts, *M'Cornock* 4871, 4872——There have been unprecedented but partial droughts for the last three years; imports of flour and beef to meet the deficiency of produce consequent upon this, *Geddes* 6917–6920.

See also *Cherry Garden Estate* (Jamaica).

Duties. See *Exports. Foreign Sugars. Imports and Exports.*

Dwellings of the Negroes:

Barbados.—Sort of houses provided for the negroes, *Sharpe* 1595–1598——Tenure of their houses, *Carrington* 1769–1771.

British Guiana.—Practice with regard to the occupation of houses and lands by the labourers, *Barkly* 2344——The building of houses for the negroes is a source of considerable expense, *Ib.* 2558, 2559.

Jamaica.—Superior character of the houses built by the labourers; generally speaking, they were much better than the huts they had been used to live in, *Candler* 7628.

Kitts, St.—Increase in the expenditure with regard to buildings for the accommodation of the negroes since emancipation, *Estridge* 3272.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Dwellings of the Negroes—continued.

Trinidad.—The negroes are much better lodged than they were during slavery, *Church* 1090–1093.

Vincent, St.—Cost of erecting huts; size and structure thereof, *Grant* 509–513.

See also *Rents. Wages,* I.

E.

East Indies. In the East Indies the labourers produce the canes, and sell them to the manufacturers; it would not be an improvement to introduce such a system into the West Indies, *Sharpe* 1668——The increased importation of sugar from the East Indies has been felt in the West India colonies; if we get Brazilian sugar, the price would be still lower, *Barrett* 5463–5466.——*See* also *Immigration,* II. 1. i.

Economy of Labour:

Barbados.—The economy of labour is quite in its infancy in Barbados; when agricultural improvements come into operation, wages will be reduced, *Sharpe* 1632–1634.

Jamaica.—There has been no great attention given to the subject of economising labour in the cultivation of estates, *Knibb* 6100–6105.

See also *Cultivation of Sugar,* I. *Machinery,* 1. 6. *Plough,* The.

EDUCATION:

I. *Increase in the Means of Education in different Colonies since Emancipation:*

1. Barbados.
2. British Guiana.
3. Grenada.
4. Jamaica.
5. Kitts, St.
6. Trinidad.
7. Vincent, St.

II. *Willingness of the Negroes to pay for the Education of their Children:*

1. In British Guiana.
2. In Jamaica.
3. In Trinidad.

I. *Increase in the Means of Education in different Colonies since Emancipation:*

1. Barbados:

The means of general education have considerably increased since freedom, *Sharpe* 1567——Schools which have been established; way in which the expenses of them have been defrayed, *Carrington* 1775–1781.

2. British Guiana:

Public schools have been erected by the Mico Charity and by charitable individuals, *Campbell* 2186–2189——The labourers contribute very liberally to missions and schools, *Scoble* 4255—— State of education and religious instruction in British Guiana, *Ib.* 4287–4289.

3. Grenada:

The Mico Society have formed new schools on the principle of those established by Government in Ireland, *Barkly* 2690.

4. Jamaica:

Ample means of education provided; unwillingness of the negro to pay for education, *Lowndes* 5072–5075; *Geddes* 6915, 6916.

5. Kitts, St.:

Ample means of education in the island of St. Kitts, *Estridge* 3132–3145.

6. Trinidad:

The negroes have abundant means of education and religious instruction, *Bushe* 3966–3969——The rising generation in Trinidad instead of getting better and improving, from the establishment of school teachers, are deteriorating in their morals every day, *Burnley* 726.

7. Vincent, St.:

State of education in St. Vincent's, *Grant* 367–381. 545–547.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

EDUCATION—continued.

II. *Willingness of the Negroes to pay for the Education of their Children:*

1. In British Guiana:

Anxiety of the negroes that their children should be educated, *Barkly* 2445, 2446.

2. In Jamaica:

Desire of the negroes to pay for the education of their children; instances in which the negroes have paid for the benefit of religious instruction and education, *M'Cornock* 4773-4776; *Knibb* 6034-6038; *Candler* 7665.

3. In Trinidad:

Raising a certain fund for educational and religious purposes by direct taxation would be of great advantage to the colony; manner in which the tax might be levied, *Burnley* 665-697——The children of the negroes never attended school when slaves; they do now, *Church* 1257-1263.

See also *Churches. Native Government. Religious Instruction*, II. 3. *Schools.*

Ejectment Act (St. Vincent). See *Contracts of Hiring*, 7.

EJECTMENT OF LABOURERS:

I. *System pursued in various Colonies with respect to the Ejectment of Labourers:*

1. Barbados.
2. British Guiana.
3. Jamaica.
4. St. Kitt's.

II. *Colonies in which Ejectment is not resorted to:*

1. Antigua.
2. Trinidad.

I. *System pursued in various Colonies with respect to the Ejectment of Labourers:*

1. Barbados:

Means resorted to for ejectment of labourers from houses and premises occupied by them, *Sharpe* 1457-1461. 1476, 1477.

2. British Guiana:

The negroes have excellent houses and provision grounds so long as they work on the estate; when they cease working, they may be ejected after three or four days' notice, *Campbell* 1934-1943——Mode of ejectment, *Ib.* 1946-1948——When labourers are ejected, they are either allowed to reap their crop or are paid for it, *Ib.* 1980——Tenure by which the negroes hold possession of their huts and provision grounds; ejectments frequently take place, *Scoble* 4246-4251. 4323-4328. 4352——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 2d February 1842, transmitting correspondence respecting ejectment of labourers, *App.* 680.

3. Jamaica:

The only remedy, in the event of a labourer absenting himself, is to eject him from the estate; this is seldom resorted to; from the scarcity of labour, the proprietors are afraid to resort to this remedy, *M'Cornock* 4570-4584. 4614-4616——It would depend upon the general character of the labourer whether he would be allowed to take away the crop growing upon his ground at the time of his ejectment, *Ib.* 4585; *Barrett* 5141, 5142——Notice required before a labourer can be ejected from his house, *Barrett* 5128; *Spalding* 5542——Ejectments are not so frequent as they were immediately after the apprenticeship closed, *Knibb* 5996, 5997——Witness upon his own concerns unhesitatingly ejected his labourers upon their declining to enter into terms to pay rent; in so doing an almost certain loss of labour was incurred, *Geddes* 6698-6700——They were allowed to take the crops they might have growing, *Ib.* 6701, 6702.

4. St. Kitts:

It is the custom in St. Kitts to eject the labourer when he ceases to work upon the estate, *Estridge* 3024. 3028-3032.

II. *Colonies in which Ejectment is not resorted to:*

1. Antigua:

There is no ejectment of labourers; the contract ceases when he wishes to withdraw, or the master wishes that he should be discharged; there is always notice of a month between master and servant, as in England, *Nugent* 2754, 2755.

2. Trinidad:

Ejectment is not resorted to, *Burnley* 623-626; *Church* 1267——If witness finds the labourers on his estates do not give him two days labour in a week, he does not eject them; it is done in some instances, *Bushe* 3845, 3846.

See also *Provision Grounds*, II. 1. *Squatters.*

Emancipation

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Emancipation of the Negroes (Antigua). Emancipation was entered upon very suddenly in Antigua; there was no remarkable change immediately after emancipation took place, *Nugent* 2944, 2945.

See also *Antigua. Condition of the Negroes*, 3, 4. *Cultivation. Dwellings of the Negroes. Education. Exports. Habits of the Negroes. Hours of Labour. Imports and Exports. Labour. Marriages. Migration. Population. Produce. Religious Instruction*, II. 3. *Rum. Sugar. Value of Estates. Value of Slaves.*

EMIGRATION:

I. *From the West India Colonies; its Effect upon them.*

1. From Antigua.
2. From Barbados.
3. From Grenada.
4. From St. Kitt's.
5. From St. Vincent.

II. *From Sierra Leone.*

1. Generally.
2. Papers laid before the Committee.

I. *From the West India Colonies; its Effect upon them:*

1. From Antigua:

There has been no immigration of labourers into the island of Antigua; there has been a certain emigration from the island, but not to any distressing extent, *Nugent* 2822, 2823——Extent to which it has taken place from Antigua; it has been chiefly to Trinidad and Demerara; the island could not endure any extended emigration, *Ib.* 2832–2836.

2. From Barbados:

In the present state of the labouring population of Barbados they could not afford to lose any considerable amount by their emigrating to other colonies, *Sharpe* 1544–1555; *Carrington* 1731. 1795. 1847, 1848——Extent to which emigration has actually taken place from this colony; injury to the proprietors caused by this emigration, *Carrington* 1796–1803.

3. From Grenada:

The emancipation of the negroes has been one of the causes of the loss of labour; this has been aggravated in Grenada by emigration to Trinidad, *Barkly* 2625–2647. 2673——This emigration is now going on to such an extent that there is reason to suppose Grenada will soon cease to be a sugar colony, *Ib.* 2682–2686——Why emigration has taken place to so large an extent from Grenada to Trinidad, while it has not done so from St. Vincent, *Ib.* 2691.

4. From St. Kitt's:

The condition of the island is, upon the whole, good; emigration is the greatest evil, *Estridge* 3228–3233.

5. From St. Vincent:

There has been scarcely any emigration into St. Vincent from other colonies, nor thence to other colonies, *Grant* 197–201.

II. *From Sierra Leone:*

1. Generally:

The supply of immigrants into the West Indies from Sierra Leone will depend very much upon the authorities there, *Burnley* 846–848——It would be practicable to supply the number of labourers required to all the West India colonies; the number required by each of the colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad, might be supplied from the coast of Africa, *Burge* 4477–4480——Benefits which would accrue to the Africans by Government undertaking to conduct a large immigration of them into the West India colonies, *Spalding* 5846——Probable stirring up of wars on the coast of Africa among the rival chiefs, in order to procure individuals who would be transported, *Candler* 7610.

2. Papers laid before the Committee:

Correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Governors of Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Sierra Leone, relative to emigration from Sierra Leone and the Western Coast of Africa, to the above colonies; together with the rules and regulations adopted thereupon, *App.* 553 *et seq.*——Despatch from Lord John Russell to the Governor of Sierra Leone, dated 21st August 1840, containing the correspondence with Messrs. Stewart, Westmorland, and Hendricks, relative to emigration from Sierra Leone, *Ib.* 556——Despatch from Lord John Russell to Governor Light, dated 30th

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2. Papers laid before the Committee—*continued.*

December 1840, announcing that emigration from Sierra Leone will be permitted, *App.* 557——Also despatch from Governor Light to Lord John Russell, dated 23d February 1841, in reply to the above, *Ib.*

Copy of a despatch from Lord John Russell to Sir J. Jeremie, Governor of Sierra Leone, dated 20th March 1841, directing emigration to the West Indies to be allowed; rules and regulations to be adopted, *App.* 558——Extract of a letter from Colonel Doherty, late Governor of Sierra Leone, to Mr. Under Secretary Hope, dated 27th October 1841, on the question of emigration to the West Indies from the African coast generally, *Ib.* 599——Extract of a report from the officer administering the government of Sierra Leone to Lord Stanley, dated 30th January 1842, on the subject of emigration from that colony, *Ib.* 599.

See also *Antigua. Barbados*, 1. *Domingo, St. Immigration. Sierra Leone.*

Emigration Fund. See *Agricultural Society* (Trinidad).

Employment of Labourers (British Guiana). Copy of despatch from Lord Stanley to Governor Light, dated 8th March 1842, acknowledging despatches respecting the employment of labourers in the colony, and approving of steps taken by Governor, *App.* 658.

Endeavour Plantation (British Guiana). See *Cultivation of Sugar*, III.

English Labourers (St. Vincent's). Three thousand English labourers might find employment in St. Vincent's without reducing wages, *Grant* 337–347——Englishmen lately sent out have double wages, and do double work, *Ib.* 355–359.

Enmore Estate (Demerara). Satisfactory state of the labourers on this estate in 1837, *Allen* 3559–3565.

Enterprise Plantation (British Guiana). Particulars as to the plantation Enterprise, number of acres, and how appropriated, *Campbell* 2073–2086——Expenses in detail of cultivating this estate in the last two years of slavery, the last three years of apprenticeship, and in the last three years, *Ib.* 2087–2090. *See* also *Cultivation of Sugar*, III.

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British Guiana.—The women and children work well, *Campbell* 2009-2017——The same classes of women work as did during slavery and apprenticeship; they do not do the same kind, nor the same amount of work; the children are not employed, *Scoble* 4226-4229.

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British Guiana.—Free labour is not only the cheapest kind of labour, but will be found, under proper direction, to be the best kind of labour, *Scoble* 4275.

Jamaica.—With free labour in abundance, Jamaica could beat the slave-labour cultition of any country, *Spalding* 5855. 5901–5904. 5922. 5947, 5948——General good behaviour of the people as free labourers, *Browne* 6515. 6517, 6518.

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Jamaica.—The free village system will not interfere with the cultivation of estates, but will rather promote it, *Knibb* 6016–6018; *Candler* 7629, 7630——The labourers from such settlements get a higher rate of wages than those located on the estates; they are generally a better class of people, *Candler* 7631–7634.

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H.

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I. *Effect of Emancipation on the Habits of the Negroes in the West Indies generally.*

II. *In particular Colonies:*

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2. Barbados.
3. British Guiana.
4. Grenada.
5. Jamaica.
6. St. Kitt's.
7. St. Lucia.
8. Trinidad.
9. St. Vincent.

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II. *Into particular Colonies:*

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   - i. Generally.
   - ii. Measures adopted to promote Immigration.
   - iii. Extent to which it is necessary in order to benefit the Colony.
   - iv. Control under which such Immigration should be placed.
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2. Jamaica:
   - i. Generally.
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   - iii. Extent of Immigration requisite to relieve the Distress of the Colony.
   - iv. Calculations of the Expense of Immigration; by whom it should be defrayed.
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   - vi. Feeling in favour of the proposed Scheme.
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Estimated cost per head of importing immigrants into Jamaica from the coast of Africa, *M'Cornock* 4909——Cost per head at which labourers might be imported from the coast of Africa, *Barrett* 5397–5400; *Spalding* 5702–5708——The expense might be borne by a loan from Government, extending over 10 or 12 years, *Barrett* 5488–5491——If an extensive system of immigration were carried into effect, and the expense borne by the Government of the home country, the deficiency of capital would be no obstacle, in the long run, to the successful cultivation of the sugar estates, *Spalding* 5898——Manner in which the expense of the required number should be defrayed; difficulty of providing for the great expense of a very extensive immigration, *Geddes* 6861–6868. 6929–6934——Impropriety of laying on a tax for the purpose of immigration into Jamaica, *Knibb* 6316–6319.

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Strong reasons for recommending that the whole scheme of immigration should be placed in the hands of the Government, *Burge* 4486——Any extensive system of immigration into Jamaica should be carried on under the control and authority of the Government; the Treasury should find the funds; the proprietors would be unable to bear any part of the expense, *Spalding* 5718–5721. 5786, 5787——Witness would recommend that immigration should be under the control of the Legislature and the Government of the colony, *Metcalfe* 7321.

vi. Feeling in favour of the proposed Scheme:

The majority of the stipendiary magistrates in the island are in favour of immigration, *Burge* 4511–4518——There is scarcely any individual to be found throughout the colony dissenting from the necessity of immigration, *Ib.* 4519——Immigration is necessary, in consequence of the idle habits of the negroes, *M'Cornock* 4754, 4755——The only remedy that witness can suggest for the present distress would be by an increase of population by means of immigration, *Metcalfe* 7310, 7311.

vii. Objections to it:

There is no strong feeling among the negro population with respect to the question of immigration, but they would rather that no immigrants came, *M'Cornock* 4855–4857——The effect of a large immigration upon the labouring population would be of the most painful kind, *Knibb* 6078. 6222–6228——Chief fear as to the result of a large immigration from Africa, *Ib.* 6257–6268. 6390–6393——Probable effect of an immigration of Africans

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Africans upon the means of subsistence of the Creoles; and also on wages, *Knibb* 6298–6309——The importation of a large number of African immigrants would create jealousy on the part of the negro population, *Ib.* 6405. 6407.

Witness is decidedly opposed to an African immigration; there is a sufficient population in the colony; jealousy with which an importation of Africans would be viewed by the Creole negroes, *Browne* 6573-6575——Ill consequences to the immigrants themselves; unfavourable influence it would have upon the wages of the present labourers in Jamaica, *Candler* 7611——Injurious effects to be anticipated upon the morals of the community, *Ib.* 7612-7614. 7746-7768. 7829-7832. 7840-7850——Inexpediency of encouraging any immigration of labourers, *Ib.* 7678——Whether immigration, on a small scale, would have a prejudicial effect, *Ib.* 7894, 7895. 7904.

viii. Papers laid before the Committee:

Copy of despatch from Lord John Russell to the Governor of Jamaica, date 9th June 1840, requesting information as to the advantages held out to emigrants from Sierra Leone, *App.* 553——Letter from Sir C. Metcalfe to Lord John Russell, dated 29th July 1840, in reply to the above, *Ib.* 554.

3. St. Kitt's:

There has been some immigration into the colony of late years; emigration has also taken place from the island; extent to which this has taken place: steps taken to prevent their leaving the island, *Estridge* 3071–3091——Immigration is not necessary, as there are labourers enough in the island, if they would work steadily, *Ib.* 3237–3240.

4. Trinidad:

i. Generally:

In the event of receiving an adequate amount of immigration, the rate of wages will be lower; this is the mode in which witness expects to arrive at a system of continuous labour, *Burnley* 809-812——Terms upon which the immigrants upon witness's estates were hired by him, *Church* 1216-1224.

ii. Number of Emigrants already arrived in the Island, and from whence:

Number of immigrants arrived in the island in the course of the last two years, *Burnley* 781–785——Evidence as to the immigration of Europeans into Trinidad; how employed; their fate; no person in Trinidad would wish Europeans generally to be introduced, *Ib.* 851–860——From whence the immigrants have principally come; those from Sierra Leone are the best and most valuable; number of hours' labour they are able to perform, *Bushe* 3946–3963. 4150–4165.

Some of the immigrants have come from the United States of America, but the larger portion from the West India Islands, *Burnley* 863, 864——There is likely to be an increased supply of labourers from North America, *Bushe* 4109–4113——Number of immigrants received in Trinidad from the United States; it will never be a large source of immigration, *Ib.* 4168–4175.

iii. Further Immigration the only Remedy for the existing Distress; Number required:

Number of immigrants it would be necessary to import annually for the purpose of making any visible impression on the rate of wages; average expense per head of the conveyance of emigrants from the coast of Africa, *Burnley* 788–793——With proper regulations and restrictions a smaller number of immigrants would suffice; nature of the regulations and restrictions contemplated, *Ib.* 812, *et seq.*——Witness would suggest wholesome laws and extensive immigration as the best remedy for the deficiency of labour; description of laws suggested, *Church* 1235–1249——Number of immigrants that would find employment, supposing the present labouring population would work continuously at five tasks per week, *Ib.* 1376–1382——The only remedy for the distress of the planters would be immigration, *Bushe* 3899–3904. 3908–3910.

iv. Papers laid before the Committee:

Letter from Lord John Russell to the Governor of Trinidad, dated 9th June 1840, requesting information as to the advantages held out to emigrants from Sierra Leone, *App.* 553——Copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-governor Sir H. Macleod to Lord John Russell, dated 3d August 1841, recommending a modification of the Order in Council as to the proportion of sexes, *Ib.* 575——Copy of a despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir H. Macleod, dated 9th October 1841, enclosing Order in Council, with modification as proposed above, *Ib.* 576——Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Trinidad 19th April 1841, for the encouragement of immigration, and for the protection of persons immigrating into this colony, *Ib.* 631.

 5. St. Vincent:

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IMMIGRATION—II. *Into particular Colonies*—continued.

5. St. Vincent:

Immediate employment could be found for 2,400 immigrants in one year, at the rate of 200 a month, *Grant* 560–567——Circumstances likely to prevent them from settling on provision grounds, *Ib.* 568–575——In four years an immigrant, at the present rate of wages, could save money enough to buy an acre of provision ground, *Ib.* 578, 579.

See also *African Immigrants. Agricultural Distress. America, North. Commandants of Quarters* (Trinidad). *Competition of Labour. Cultivation of Sugar*, IV. 3. VI. *Emigration. European Immigrants. Foreign Sugars. Jamaica. Maltese Immigrants. Mortgages. White Immigrants.*

Immigration Act (Jamaica). Copy of an Act to repeal and amend an Act, intituled "An Act to encourage Immigration," 11th December 1840, *App.* 618.

Imports and Exports:

Antigua.—The imports have increased exceedingly since the establishment of freedom, *Nugent* 2847–2851.

Barbados.—The import and export duties have increased lately, *Sharpe* 1558.

St. Kitt's.—The imports have increased since the abolition of slavery; nature of this increase, *Estridge* 3115–3117.

Trinidad.—Evidence to show that the annual produce exported from Trinidad has been less during the last three years than the average of any preceding three years; so far as the imports are concerned the trade has increased, *Burnley* 937–949——Evidence respecting the duties upon exports and imports, *Ib.* 1045–1050——The extraordinary amount of imports are not all for Trinidad consumption; a large proportion is re-exported to the Spanish Main; an extensive system of barter is carried on, *Church* 1426–1428–9.——*See* also *Exports.*

St. Vincent.—Increased imports of British dry goods into St. Vincent since the emancipation, *Grant* 209–213.

Improvement of Estates (Jamaica). Increase of enterprise with regard to the improvement of estates, *Candler* 7643, 7644.

Independence of the Negroes (Jamaica). Their disinclination to work arises from the fact that they find themselves independent and comfortable by means of the wages arising from the little work they do, *M'Cornock* 4768, 4769——The present difficulty in carrying on the sugar cultivation in Jamaica arises to a considerable extent from the too great independence of the negroes, owing to the facility with which they obtain land, and the very great demand for their labour, *Metcalfe* 7380, 7381.

Irish Immigrants (Jamaica). Witness had nearly 100 Irish immigrants on his estates; they would have done very well if he had been supported in the management of them, and in exacting that for which they had agreed; but they were not people adapted for the purpose, *Spalding* 5878–5882.

Irrigation (British Guiana). Expense of keeping up the canals in the colony, *Campbell* 2300–2306. 2308–2311——It would not be easy to irrigate the land, *Ib.* 2307.

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Jamaica. Return showing the extent of land in Jamaica; and how much of it remains at present ungranted by the Crown, *Burge* 4411—— Return showing the total number of acres of land patented in each parish (after deducting what was included therein as either re-patented or escheated), from the earliest period to the year 1838 inclusive, *Ev. p.* 317——Almost the whole island has been granted, *Burge* 4412, 4413——Proportion the cultivated land in Jamaica bears to the land which is uncultivated; there is a great deal of primitive forest which has never been cultivated at all, *M'Cornock* 4529–4535——For several years back a considerable number of estates have been abandoned, and of those which are still in cultivation a considerable proportion is thrown out of cultivation, as far as sugar goes, *Ib.* 4531. 4537–4540.

Principal staple productions of Jamaica, *M'Cornock* 4536——Jamaica must in the course of a very few years cease to be an exporting colony, or a productive colony, *Spalding* 5787——The coloured population are not in such a state of advancement that if left by the whites they could maintain themselves as a civilised body of people, *Ib.* 5791–5798——Causes to which the diminution of the produce of the island within the last two or three years may be attributed, *Knibb* 6059–6067.

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7389-7426——Increase of trade generally throughout the island, *Candler* 7660-7662. 7677——Witness does not consider the present state of things in Jamaica to be desperate, *Browne* 6540, 6541.

Statement of the annual military, civil and ecclesiastical expenditure, and of the annual expenses of public institutions, and general defence of the island, for the seven years preceding and the seven years following the year of the abolition of slavery, *Burge* 4472, 4473——Return of the estimated annual expenditure of the several parishes in the island of Jamaica for the year 1841, *Ev. p.* 331——Total cost of the government and the parochial expenditure of Jamaica for the purposes of civil government, *Barrett* 5420. 5422-5426.

See also *Cuba. Domingo, St. United States.* And the *general Headings of this Index.*

Jamaica Silk Company. Copy of despatch from Sir C. T. Metcalfe to Lord Stanley, dated 6 May 1842, transmitting report from the manager of the Jamaica Silk Company, *App.* 648.

James's, St., Parish (Jamaica.) State of the labouring population in the parish of St. James in 1839; wages paid, *Barrett* 5371-5380. 5442-5444.

Job Work:

British Guiana.—The work on sugar and coffee plantations is done by job, and the labourers begin and leave off when they please, *Campbell* 2004-2006.

Jamaica.—Preference is given to job-work over day-work by the labourer when he can get more money by it; employment by job-work is increasing; it should be encouraged, *Candler* 7604-7608.

St. Vincent.—Negroes having land of their own never work at the canes, but will accept job-work, *Grant* 143-148.——*See* also *Task-work.*

Judges. See *Administration of Justice.*

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Kidnapping. Copy of despatch from Lord John Russell to the Governor of Sierra Leone, dated 10 September 1840, referring to the precautions to be taken to prevent the kidnapping of the liberated Africans, *App.* 557.

Kitt's, St. Extent of the island; porportions cultivated and uncultivated; staple products of the island, *Estridge* 2999-3007——The revenues of the island have increased since freedom commenced, *Ib.* 3118-3119——The soil of St. Kitt's is capable of great productiveness; the climate is very uncertain; number of years the canes will bear ratooning, *Estridge* 3120-3124.

Statement of the annual expenses of estates in St. Kitt's, with the crops of sugar, rum and molasses, and the cost of the sugar crop after allowing for the rum and molasses, *Ev. p.* 234; *Estridge* 3211-3211*——The general trade of the island has improved since the commencement of freedom; the comforts of the labourers have also improved, *Estridge* 3267——Number of the labouring population in the island of St. Kitt's during slavery, apprenticeship and freedom, *Ib.* 3289-3294.

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Knibb, Rev. *William.* (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Dissenting clergyman in Jamaica; missionary of the Baptist society; has been in the island of Jamaica nearly 18 years, and has had considerable personal intercourse with the labouring population, 5951-5954——Ordinary labour which was exacted from them as slaves, and during apprenticeship; proportion which that now required bears to that under slavery and apprenticeship, 5955-5962. 6124-6130——General complaint of the want of continuous labour in the island, 5963, 5964——Evidence respecting the amount of wages, and how paid, 5965-5974——Rate at which the labour of the apprentices was usually valued when they applied to purchase the unexpired term of their servitude, 5975, 5976——Meeting of the planters subsequent to the period of apprenticeship, for the purpose of regulating the price of labour in a state of freedom; result of this meeting, 5977-5985. 6139-6146——There is a disposition on the part of the labourers to work continuously at job or piece work, 5986-7. 5989——The present rate of money wages which the labourers receive is adequate to their maintenance, 5990.

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Knollis Estate (Jamaica). Pay-bill for Knollis Estate, from 11th to 15th October, *Ev.* p. 366, 367——Pay-bill for the same estate, from 18th to 22d October 1841, *Ib.* 368.

L.

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Labour promises now to be more continuous than it has been, *Allen* 3518——There are fewer complaints of the want of labour now than there used to be, *Ib.* 3694–3698.

vi. Price of Labour:

There is sufficient labour at the present time in British Guiana; but the inducements given by the planters are not sufficient to secure continuous labour, *Scoble* 4217–4219——Information as to the comparative price of labour during the periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, *Ib.* 4241.

vii. Papers laid before the Committee:

Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 3d February 1842, transmitting copy of letter from Mr. Rose to Government Secretary, and of reply thereto, pointing out the illegality of the rules and regulations respecting labour, *App.* 690——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 11th February 1842, relative to the resumption by labourers of their ordinary occupations, and general tranquillity, *Ib.* 698——Also despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 16th February 1842, transmitting copy of correspondence occasioned by "Rules and Regulations" for management of estates, and of Governor's address to labourers, *Ib.* 699——Despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 28th February 1842, relative to the continuance of labourers at their employment, *Ib.* 706.

4. Grenada:

The same complaints with regard to the want of continuous labour exist in Grenada as in many other colonies; all the estates have become less productive in consequence, *Barkly* 2671, 2672.

5. Jamaica:

i. Generally:

The labourers sometimes work by the task, and sometimes by the day; wages paid; number of hours considered a day's work, *Lowndes* 4996——How far and with what success the system has been tried of not paying the labourers for work done during a part of the week, unless they work the whole week, *Ib.* 4982-4984——Witness never tried the experiment of not paying for any work done during the week, unless the labourers worked for five days in the week, *Barrett* 5172–5183.

ii. Whether there is a sufficient Supply of Labour in the Colony or not:

The amount of effective work has diminished two-thirds since the passing of the Act of Emancipation, *Burge* 4499–4500——Great want of labour generally in the island of Jamaica, *M'Cornack* 4690——Witness has not sufficient labour on his eight estates for the quantity of land now in cultivation, *Lowndes* 4989——There are the same number of labourers on the estates that were there during slavery, but they do not work continuously; some of them have bought lands of their own; they still work for witness at intervals, *Ib.* 4993–4995.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Labour—II. *Labour in particular Colonies*—continued.

5. Jamaica.—ii. Whether there is a sufficient supply of Labour—*continued.*

The labour of the men on witness's estate was, on the whole, very irregular and unsatisfactory; there was no redress, *Barrett* 5161——Witness's resident labourers are so far insufficient, that he is obliged to get them from neighbouring properties, by giving them higher wages than his neighbours, *Barrett* 5341–5352. 5363–5366. 5472–5475——Witness has frequently had occasion to complain of the bad quality, as well as the want of quantity, of the work; witness was obliged to put up with it, fearing lest, if he resorted to harsh measures, he should drive them off the estates, *Spalding* 5569–5579.

Average labour of the negroes in Jamaica; little reliance that is to be placed upon their coming to work regularly, *Geddes* 6761–6763. 6768——The labourers upon witness's estates have fallen off one-third since freedom; they have bought properties adjacent; these labourers occasionally give their labour, *Ib.* 6764–6767——It is universal in Jamaica for the negroes to work only three days in the week; impracticability of reducing the wages one-half, and thereby compelling the negroes to work six days for the same remuneration, *Ib.* 6957–6966.

Those negroes who are settled on lands of their own do work for the adjoining estates, wherever they can get fair wages, *Knibb* 6015——Wherever there is money to be found, labour may be had, *Ib.* 6404; *M'Cornock* 4861——The complaint of a general want of labourers is not well founded, *Candler* 7599——Evidence with reference to the discrepancies in returns of recent date, as to whether labour can be obtained or not, *Geddes* 6925–6928.

iii. Causes of the Disinclination to labour:

To what the disinclination of the people to labour may be attributed, *Rep.* 4; *M'Cornock* 4637–4639. 4768, 4769; *Browne* 6536–6539; *Geddes* 6717; *Metcalfe* 7340–7343. 7380, 7381.

iv. Distress occasioned by the Want of Labour:

The want of labour is the cause of the diminished produce of Jamaica, *M'Cornock* 4836——Unless something effectual can be done to ensure a better supply of labour, the cultivation and the export of produce must cease, *Spalding* 5764–5768. 5787——The great distress, on the part of the Jamaica planters, is to be attributed to want of labour, *St. John* 7001–7005.

6. St. Kitt's:

The falling off of labour is the principal cause of the diminished produce of estates in St. Kitt's, *Estridge* 3101–3104——Illustration of the opinion that the amount of effective labour has diminished since the commencement of freedom, *Ib.* 3262–3264.

7. Trinidad:

i. Generally:

Want of a sufficient motive to induce the negroes to work, *Burnley* 655——Planters are so much afraid of diminishing the supply of labour, by offending the labourers, that they are obliged to pay for the work, whether it is well or ill done, *Church* 1215——The law affords no means of compelling a fair amount of labour by the day, *Bushe* 4193–4195——It would be impossible to obtain a greater share of labour without reducing wages, *Ib.* 4196.

ii. Evils accruing to the Colony from the Want of Continuous Labour:

Impossibility of the proprietors effecting many things which would have been beneficial to them, on account of the demand for labour being so much greater than the supply, *Burnley* 621. 625–629——In the present state of Trinidad, with regard to the want of a continuous supply of labour, estates cannot be kept up to remunerate proprietors, *Ib.* 713–718——Difficulty of inducing the freedom Creoles to labour in the island of Trinidad, *Ib.* 907——The principal cause of the distress of the planters in Trinidad is the want of a sufficient labouring population to enable them to keep the large capital invested in sugar estates in profitable employment; remedy suggested as most likely to meet this deficiency, *Ib.* 910–913. 915——The present amount of labour is sufficient for the quantity of land in cultivation, provided that labour could be more continuous, *Church* 1345, 1346——A great deal more land on witness's estates might be brought into cultivation, provided they had more labour, *Ib.* 1347–1351.

iii. Diminution

Report, 1842—*continued.*

LABOUR—II. *In particular Colonies*—continued.

7. Trinidad—*continued.*

iii. Diminution in the Supply of Labour since Emancipation:

Diminution of the supply of labour in Trinidad since the commencement of freedom; women perform field work; children do not work, *Burnley* 701–712——Number of efficient working slaves at the time of emancipation in Trinidad; proportion who have retired from field and other labour, *Ib.* 861, 862——General opinion of the inhabitants, that at least one-third of the labourers have retired from field labour; the amount of immigrants has not been equal to this extent of labour, *Ib.* 1000–1010——It would be quite impossible for witness to hire as large a number of labourers as he employed slaves on his estates during slavery, *Church* 1227–1230.

8. St. Vincent:

i. Generally:

Statement of the number of days and hours of labour each week during slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom respectively, *Grant* 73–89——It was found more expedient to stop wages, when negroes would not work, than to take them before magistrates, *Ib.* 106, 107——In seven hours the negroes do more work in proportion to the time than they did as slaves, *Ib.* 306–310——Arrangements for securing the labour of the blacks immediately after emancipation, *Ib.* 480–485——Those who had worked on estates during apprenticeship were required to work after they became free, *Ib.* 536, 537——Number of days' work for men, women, and children respectively, *Ib.* 538, 539.

ii. Diminution in the Supply of Labour:

Two-thirds of the women formerly employed in field labour are now engaged in household duties, *Grant* 298–305——Causes of the diminution of labour to the extent of one-third, *Ib.* 332–335——Decrease of manual labour since 1830, and since emancipation; causes and consequences thereof, *Ib.* 391——Number of labourers who left the Argyle and Calder Estates immediately after emancipation, *Ib.* 486–490—— Increasing number of negroes employing themselves apart from sugar estates, *Ib.* 556–559.

iii. Evil Effects of this Diminution:

Effects of the diminution of labour since the commencement of freedom upon the cultivation of the sugar cane, and the quantity of sugar manufactured, *Grant* 90–104——Many labourers will engage to labour in the works who will not work in the fields; they have the same pay in both, *Ib.* 156. 158——The works have often been left standing from the capricious absence of labourers, *Ib.* 159——Injury occasioned by the uncertainty and irregularity of the supply of labour, *Ib.* 178, 179——Evils arising from a deficiency of labour enumerated, *Ib.* 336.

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, III. 1. 2. 3. 4. *Agricultural Distress. British Guiana*, 1. *Calder Estate* (St. Vincent.) *Capital*, II. 1. *Children of the Negroes. Compensation Money. Competition of Labour. Continuous Labour. Extra Labour. Female Labour. Free Settlements. Golden Grove Estate* (Jamaica). *Hours of Labour. Immigration. Manufacture of Sugar. Tariff of Labour. Task-work.*

LABOURERS:

1. *In Antigua.*
2. *In British Guiana.*
3. *In Jamaica.*
4. *In Trinidad.*

1. *In Antigua:*

The negroes of Antigua were in a more civilized state in 1834 than they were generally in the other islands, *Nugent* 2914, 2915——The labourers of Antigua are very well off at the present rate of wages; they are enabled for the most part to save money; they are prudent in their habits, *Ib.* 2981–2983——Many of them have purchased land; rate at which they have purchased it, *Ib.* 2984, 2985.

2. *In British Guiana:*

Governor Light's estimate of the number of effective labourers throughout the colony, *Barkly* 2449–2452——The planters, in witness's district, were almost universally satisfied with the conduct of the labourers at the time he left British Guiana in April 1842, *Allen* 3546–3553. 3586, 3587——The labourers do full justice to their employers for the wages they receive, *Ib.* 3586, 3587——It would be impolitic to discharge the labourers from their plantain grounds if they did not work, *Ib.* 3600–3605.

They have saved large sums of money occasionally; a large number have bought lots of land in the colony, *Scoble* 4253, 4254——Witness would place the labourers on the same legal footing on which the labourers of this country are placed, *Ib.* 4350——The complaints in Demerara of the negroes not having done any work upon the estates on which they have resided, have not existed by any means to the extent which has been supposed and alleged, *Ib.* 4353, 4354.

Reports, 1842—*continued.*

LABOURERS—continued.

3. *In Jamaica:*

Proportion the existing number of labourers upon various estates under witness's management bears to the number upon those same estates previously to the period of emancipation, *M'Cornock* 4719–4728. 4731–4738——Evidence respecting the disinclination of the negroes to work, *Ib.* 4797–4806——The labourers on witness's estates work so badly that witness has been obliged to reduce his cultivation one-half in some cases, *Lowndes* 4978–4981——The labourers have improved latelyin their habits of labour in Jamaica, *Barrett* 5381——Difference in the number of labourers residing on witness's tates between the latter years of slavery and the present period of freedom, *Spalding* 5648, *et seq.*——A considerable number of labourers have left the estates, and settled upon lands of their own; the number is increasing very rapidly; there is no impediment thrown in their way, *Knibb* 5999–6003.

4. *In Trinidad:*

The labourers are now in a better state as to comfort and luxuries of every description than in any other part of the world, *Burnley* 661.

See also *African Immigrants*, II. 2. *Allowances to Labourers, Calder Estate* (St. Vincent.) *Classes of Labourers. Condition of the Negroes*, 2. 3. 4. *Continuous Labour*, II. 3. i. *Female Labour. Golden Grove Estate* (Jamaica). *Hours of Labour. Immigration. Rents. Task-work*, 4. *Taxation. Wages.*

Land. See *Price of Land. Purchases of Land by the Negroes.*

Land Fund. See *Agricultural Society* (Trinidad).

Land Tax (Jamaica). There is no objection to raising the whole revenue required for parochial and public purposes by means of a land tax, provided it could be prevented from falling on the exportable produce, *Spalding* 5773.

See also *Provision Grounds*, II. 4. iv.

LAWS:

I. *Generally.*

II. *General Laws in particular Colonies:*

1. Jamaica.
2. Trinidad.

III. *Laws between Master and Servant:*

1. Generally.
2. In different Colonies.
   i. Antigua.
   ii. British Guiana.
   iii. Jamaica.

I. *Generally:*

A wholesome system of laws is the first thing required for the British colonies, if they are to be retained as any valuable appendage to the British Crown, *Church* 1284.

II. *General Laws in particular Colonies:*

1. Jamaica:

The laws are quite adequate for the government of the colony, *Spalding* 5799, 5800——The provisions of the present law are sufficient to afford adequate security for the protection of all immigrants, both during their voyage and on their arrival in the colony, *Metcalfe* 7329.

2. Trinidad:

The basis of the law in Trinidad is Spanish law; this has in some measure prevented capital from going into the island; efforts made to reform the state of the law, *Burnley* 950–957——Spanish is the law of the country, but a great number of English laws have been introduced by Orders in Council, *Bushe* 4060.

III. *Laws between Master and Servant:*

1. Generally:

Opinion of the Committee that the laws which regulate the relations between the employers and labourers in the different colonies, should undergo early and careful revision by their respective legislatures, *Rep.* 5.

2. In

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Laws—III. *Laws between Master and Servant*—continued.

2. In different Colonies:

i. Antigua:

The laws between master and labourer, passed in Antigua in 1834, were disallowed by the other legislative colonies in 1838, *Nugent* 2933–2935——They are by no means so liberal as the laws of the other colonies, *Scoble* 4303.

ii. British Guiana:

The law, as between labourer and employer, is arbitrary, and ill understood, *Campbell* 2234–2238——Laws required for the regulation of the relations between the labourers and employers, *Barkly* 2437——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 21st January 1842, relative to the continued disagreement between employers and labourers, *App.* 657——Also despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 5th February 1842, relative to the continued disagreement between proprietors and labourers; transmitting copy of correspondence on that subject, *Ib.* 692.

iii. Jamaica:

The laws bearing upon the labourer and master are perfectly equal to every purpose, *Geddes* 6742——Difficulty of rendering the law with regard to the relation between master and labourer more stringent, *Ib.* 6880–6882——The laws which witness administered are sufficient for affording redress on all possible points, to both labourer and employer, *St. John* 6999, 7000——Any attempt at great stringency in enforcing labour, would produce much discontent and dissatisfaction throughout the island; the existing laws regarding the relation between the labourer and the employer, are amply sufficient for the protection of the neighbouring population, and of the employer of labour, *Metcalfe* 7330–7337. 7357–7366. 7371–7379——The laws in the Crown colonies, regulating the relation between master and servant, are as perfect as they can be, *Scoble* 4309*–4322.

See also *Administration of Justice. Continuous Labour*, II. 3. iv. *Contracts of Hiring. Immigration*, II. 4. iii. *Labour*, II. 1. 7. i. *Magistrates. Squatters, Tenancy. Vagrant Law* (British Guiana).

Leases:

Barbados.—The law does not allow a longer lease than for a year to be entered into with the negroes, for the occupation of their provision grounds; they usually occupy them from week to week, and pay a weekly rent, *Sharpe* 1635–1639.

Trinidad.—Reasons for supposing that granting leases for terms of years would not have the effect of attaching the negro to the soil, and permanently keeping him to the same district, *Burnley* 818–824——A system of leasing out houses and land to labourers would have a tendency to increase the feeling of attachment to their home, *Church* 1282.

St. Vincent.—Landowners might lease estates with advantage, but they rarely manage them well themselves, *Grant* 348.

Legislature (Trinidad). There is a legislative council in the island; how constituted; the council resisted the abolition of the apprenticeship system up to within a few days of the 1st August 1838, *Burnley* 974–987. 1021–1023.

Liberated Africans. See *African Immigrants.*

Light, Governor. See *African Immigrants*, I. II. 1. *British Guiana*, 2. *Churches. Complaints of Labourers* (British Guiana). *Conduct of the Negroes. Cultivation of Sugar*, III. *Ejectment of Labourers*, I. 2. *Free Settlements. Garnett*, Mr. *Labour*, II. 3. vii. *Laws*, II. 2. ii. *Mackay*, Mr. *Metairie System of Cultivation and Tenancy. Mortality. Police. Produce*, II. 1. *Rents. Tariff of Labour. Wages*, III. 4.

Local Taxation (Jamaica). Unsuccessful attempts made to lower the various local taxes in the island, *Barrett* 5403–5419——The money levied for parochial purposes is raised by taxes imposed by the vestry, *Spalding* 5836–5838.

Lowndes, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has lived 27 years in Jamaica as a planter; left the island on the 7th April 1842; had the charge of eight sugar plantations in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, 4952–4956——Proportion the uncultivated land of Jamaica bears to the cultivated, 4957–4960——Terms upon which the labourers upon witness's estates rent their houses and gardens; they are allowed to cultivate provision grounds on sufferance; they had as much as they chose to cultivate; they paid no rent, 4961–4977——They work so badly that witness has been obliged to reduce his cultivation one-half in some cases, 4978–4981——How far and with what success the system has been tried of not paying the labourers for work done during a part of the week unless

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Lowndes, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

they work the whole week, 4982–4984——In crop he is under an engagement to work during the whole crop time, and not retire without giving notice; this understanding is adhered to by them, 4984–4988. 4990–4992.

Witness has not sufficient labour on his eight estates for the quantity of land now in cultivation, 4989——There are the same number of labourers on the estates that there were during slavery, but they do not work continuously; some of them have bought lands of their own; they still work for witness at intervals, 4993–4995——The labourers sometimes work by the task and sometimes by the day; wages paid; number of hours considered a day's work, 4996——Pay-bill for Knollis estate from 11th to 15th October, delivered in, *Ev. pp.* 366, 367——Pay-bill for the same estate from 18th to 22d October 1841, *Ev. p.* 368——Of what a task of field work consists; they are very seldom inclined to do more than one task in a day, 5005–5008——Allowances given the negroes in addition to money wages, 5009——They cannot make so much from their provision grounds as they would get by labouring upon a sugar estate for wages, 5010——Witness has sold the negroes large quantities of land in small lots; price at which sold; quantity usually purchased; expenses of conveyance, 5011–5025——The amount of wages paid to the labourers is regulated by specific contract, 5026–5028——The land thrown out of cultivation for sugar is now in pasture; there is a superabundance of pasture land, 5030, 5031.

Witness also lets land to the negroes; terms upon which let; quantity let, 5032–5035——The labourers do not grow canes upon the land they purchase or rent, except for their own consumption, for feeding their pigs, 5036——The metairie system of rents would not answer at present in Jamaica, 5037, 5038——Papers put in containing a detailed statement of the system of cultivation of a sugar plantation, 5039——Actual employment, for one day, of 152 apprentices (75 males and 77 females) on an estate making 100 hogsheads of sugar, taken about December 1837, during the apprenticeship in Jamaica, *Ev. p.* 370——Return of labourers at work upon an estate in Jamaica in October 1841, *Ib.* 371——Amount of wages paid to labourers only for the cultivation of canes and contingencies, of an estate in Jamaica, which made 81 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum in 1841, *Ib.*——Amount of contingencies of a sugar estate in Jamaica, not including labourers' wages, for 81 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum, made in 1841, *Ib.*——Expenditure and proceeds of an estate in Jamaica, for a crop of 81 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum, made in 1841, *Ib.*

The labour upon witness's estates would be sufficient, if the negroes would work continuously, 5040–5047——The complaint of the want of continuous labour is general throughout the island, 5048, 5049——Evidence respecting the use of the plough in Jamaica, 5050–5053——Proprietors cannot afford to pay the present rate of wages in the present condition of their estates, 5054–5061——The chief cause of the distress is the want of continuous labour, 5062–5065——The population of the colony has increased considerably from natural causes since the abolition of slavery, 5066–5068——The habits and character of the negroes have very much improved since emancipation, 5070——They have become more religious in their character, 5071——The labourers upon witness's estates are well accommodated with the means of education; the negroes generally object to pay for the education of their children, 5072–5075——Effect upon the negroes of the system of requiring them to pay rent, 5076–5083——Salaries usually paid to attorneys of estates, and to overseers, 5084–5086——It would be beneficial to the colony if more proprietors resided in it, 5087–5090.

Lucia, St. Copy of a despatch from Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley, dated 20th May 1842, forwarding Colonel Graydon's general report of the colony of St. Lucia, *App.* 744——Also, copy of a despatch from Sir C. E. Grey to Lord Stanley, dated 3d May 1842, forwarding reports from the stipendiary magistrates for March 1842, respecting the condition and prospects of the colony, *Ib.* 738.——*See* also *Metairie System of Cultivation.*

Luxuries:

British Guiana.—The negroes are in the habit of procuring certain comforts and luxuries from this country; some of them drink wine, *Allen* 3787–3791.

Jamaica.—Some of the negroes drink wine; some of them keep it in their houses, *Knibb* 6277, 6278——Comforts and luxuries the high rate of wages enables the labourers to supply themselves with; they keep horses, *Geddes* 6772–6774——Desire evinced by the adult population for an increase of the comforts and luxuries of life; probable effects of these tendencies on the rising generation, *Ib.* 6893–6898. 6902, 6903.

See also *Condition of the Negroes. Habits of the Negroes.*

Report, 1842—*continued.*

M.

MACHINERY:

1. *Use of Machinery in Antigua.*
2. *In Barbados.*
3. *In British Guiana.*
4. *In Grenada.*
5. *In Jamaica.*
6. *In Trinidad.*

1. *Use of Machinery in Antigua:*

The use of machinery has tended much to economise the cost of production, *Nugent* 2876-2879——Number of steam engines used in the island in the manufacture of sugar, *Ib.* 2977.

2. *In Barbados:*

Extent to which machinery is used, *Carrington* 1878.

3. *In British Guiana:*

Extensive use of machinery in British Guiana, *Campbell* 2060-2064——Description of machinery used; horse and steam ploughs, *Ib.* 2066-2072——Obstacles to the introduction of machinery; immense quantity introduced during the period of the apprenticeship, *Barkly* 2533-2535——Improvement in machinery introduced of late years, *Ib.* 2536, 2537——Extent to which the compensation money was laid out in introducing machinery, *Ib.* 2538——Great part of the increase of crop during the apprenticeship is to be attributed to those improvements, *Ib.* 2539——If the supply of labour had remained as it was, the introduction of machinery would have taken place to an immense extent, *Ib.* 2540——The machinery is tolerably perfect almost everywhere, *Allen* 3680-3682.

4. *In Grenada:*

Machinery is used to a slight extent in Grenada; the principal part of the mills are turned by water, *Barkly* 2727.

5. *In Jamaica:*

The use of other machinery besides the plough is not much increasing, *M'Cornock* 4789——Improvements might be made in the cultivation of estates in Jamaica, by the introduction of machinery, *Ib.* 4880. 4900, 4901——No machinery has been introduced of late on the coffee plantations in the island of Jamaica, *Spalding* 5914-5916——Improvements suggested in machinery in the island of Jamaica, *Knibb* 6367-6370. 6435, 6436——There is not much to be gained from the increased use of machinery; the use of the harrow is found to be prejudicial on the light soils, *Geddes* 6826-6828.

6. *In Trinidad:*

Machinery is extensively used in Trinidad, *Burnley* 880, 881——Great economy might be produced by the introduction of machinery, *Bushe* 4134-4138. 4145, 4146——Impossibility of economising labour in Trinidad by the use of machinery, *Church* 1169-1181.

M'Cornock, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resided in the island of Jamaica as a planter for thirty-seven years; has had the possession and management of sugar estates there for the last thirty years; was overseer for eleven years upon the Golden Grove estate, in St. Thomas-in-the-East, 4520-4528——Proportion the cultivated land in Jamaica bears to the land which is uncultivated; there is a great deal of primitive forest, which has never been cultivated at all, 4529-4535——For several years back a considerable number of estates have been abandoned, and of those which are still in cultivation a considerable proportion is thrown out of cultivation, as far as sugar goes, 4531. 4537-4540——Principal staple productions of Jamaica, 4536——The principal production of the estate upon which witness resides is sugar; acreage of the estate; proportion in cane cultivation; manner in which the remainder is cultivated, 4541-4544——Way in which the negroes are provided with provision grounds; number of acres which are so allowed; they pay rent for their houses and grounds, 4544-4550. 4555-4564——Number of negroes upon the estate at the termination of apprenticeship; present number, 4551-4554——Nature of the contract between the labourers and witness under which they pay the rent, 4565-4569.

The only remedy in the event of a labourer absenting himself is, to eject him from the estate; this is seldom resorted to; from the scarcity of labour, the proprietors are afraid to resort to this remedy, and are even afraid to take them before the magistrates, 4570-4584. 4614-4616——It would depend upon the general character of the labourer whether he would be allowed to take away the crop growing upon his ground at the time of his ejectment, 4585——Classes of labourers upon the estate managed by witness,

Report, 1842—*continued.*

M'Cornock, Thomas, (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

4586——Rate of wages paid to these various classes; the rent is deducted from the wages; they are paid every Saturday morning; the agreement as to the rate of wages to be paid is all verbal, 4587–4595——The custom of working by the task is getting general in Jamaica; of what the task consists, 4596–4599——The wages paid to the day labourers depend upon their ability, 4600–4603——Number of days in the week the labourers are willing to work and do work for their wages; evidence as to the work performed by the labourers from Sierra Leone, 4604–4613——Remedy in case they execute their work in a slovenly or careless manner, 4617–4623——The manufacture of sugar is often impeded through the accidental and unforeseen absence of labourers, 4624–4627.

Proprietors are not compelled by law to pay the labourers at all if they do not work five days in the week, unless good cause can be shown, 4628–4636——The labourers, working five days a week, can earn in money wages from 6*s.* to 10*s.* a week, 4637——They raise more than sufficient provisions on their grounds to supply their families, and are thereby enabled to make a great deal of money by selling provisions, 4637–4639——Their habits of idleness may be attributed to the high wages they obtain; objections to trying the experiment of lowering the wages, 4639–4643——The labour got at present upon witness's estate is not more than two-thirds what it was during slavery, 4644–4656——They only make two hogsheads of sugar now where they got three before, 4657——The difference arises both from the insufficient nature of the labour done, and from the diminished supply of labour; but principally from the want of numbers, 4658–4664——Formerly they worked at night; no rate of wages will induce them to do so now, 4665–4671——Evidence respecting the effect of the seasons upon the crops of 1838, 1839, 1840, and 1841, 4672–4687——Witness has introduced labourers from Sierra Leone; since that he has sufficient hands upon the estate, if they would work continuously, 4688, 4689. 4691–4696——Great want of labour generally in the island of Jamaica, 4690——Previously to witness getting these labourers from Sierra Leone, a great many of his other labourers had gradually left him; many of them have bought land in the neighbourhood; they sometimes come and work upon the estate, 4697–4704——The labourers from Sierra Leone were imported at the expense of the colony, 4705–4710——Their general conduct has been very good; they are in general Christians; their state of education when they came, 4711–4717.

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Mackay, Mr. Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 2d February 1842, transmitting copy of letter from Mr. Mackay to Government Secretary, respecting the rate of wages offered by him on La Bonne Mère estate, in British Guiana, and reply to the same, *App.* 677.

Macleod, Sir *H.* See *African Immigrants,* II. 3. *Agricultural Society* (Trinidad).

M'Turk, Sir *Michael.* Impossibility of carrying into effect Sir Michael M'Turk's suggestions of enforcing from the negroes more regular labour whenever they are permitted to occupy houses and grounds rent-free, *Barkly* 2594–2597.

Madden, Dr. Extract from Report of Dr. Madden, Commissioner of Inquiry on the Western Coast of Africa, dated 31st July 1841, with Appendices, on the subject of emigration from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, *App.* 587.

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Barbados.—Disputes between labourers and employers are settled by application to the police magistrates, *Sharpe* 1462.

British Guiana.—The stipendiary magistrates have a leaning towards the labourers, *Campbell* 1974, 1975——The stipendiary magistrates are guided more by general equity and by instructions than by written laws, *Ib.* 2272–2286.

Jamaica.—Great want of magistrates in the county in which witness's estates are situated, *Spalding* 5580–5613——The magistrates are appointed by the governor, solely at the recommendation of the custos, *Ib.* 5876, 5877——The negroes place confidence in the decisions of the magistrates, *Bernal* 6469.

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Trinidad.—Disputes between witness and his labourers were settled by reference to the stipendiary magistrate, *Church* 1089.

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Maltese Immigrants (Grenada). The island would be much better for an increase of population; attempt made in the year 1840 to introduce some Maltese emigrants into the island, *Barkly* 2667–2670——Judging from the experiments made, there would be no hope of procuring efficient labourers from Malta, *Ib.* 2719–2721——Statement respecting Maltese labourers imported into Grenada, *Ib.* 2730*.

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Management of Estates. Opinion of the Committee, that the remedies best calculated to check the increasing depreciation of West India property might be effected by judicious arrangements on the part of the planters themselves, and by moderate and prudent changes in the system hitherto adopted, *Rep.* 4, 5.——*See* also *Barbados.*

Manual Labour (Jamaica). Tendency of the negro, from the present advantages which he possesses, to leave off manual labour, *Knibb* 6387–6392.

Manufacture of Sugar:

British Guiana.—Pay to labourers engaged in the manufacture of sugar, *Campbell* 1961–1965——The cause of the falling off of the crop of 1840 in British Guiana was owing to the planters neglecting the cultivation, and devoting all their attention to the manufacture, *Allen* 3622–3630.

Jamaica.—It would not be practicable, so far as the manufacture of sugar is concerned, to let land in considerable parcels to negroes at a fair rent, and then manufacture the produce for them, with a view to obviating the difficulty of getting labour, *Bernal* 6474–6476.

Trinidad.—Method pursued in the manufacture of sugar in Trinidad; they have not improved in the cultivation of it, or the processes, since the period of slavery, *Burnley* 865–875. 882, 883——Labour is less continuous than it was during slavery; injury produced in the manufacture of sugar thereby, *Church* 1212–1214——None of the negroes manufacture sugar for themselves, *Ib.* 1271.

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Manure:

Antigua.—Manure is used to a very great extent; a large quantity is imported, *Nugent* 2795–2799.

Barbados.—The land is highly manured; species of manure used; a great deal is imported from this country, *Sharpe* 1624–1630.

St. Kitt's.—A great deal of manure is used; some has been imported from this country, *Estridge* 3125, 3126.

Trinidad.—The soil is so wet, manure is not required, *Burnley* 878, 879.

St. Vincent.—Improvement in the produce of the Calder estate, since the introduction of imported manure in 1836, *Grant* 236.

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MARRIAGES:

I. *Increase in the Number of Marriages in the Colonies generally.*

II. *In particular Colonies:*

1. Barbados.
2. British Guiana.
3. Jamaica.
4. St. Kitt's.
5. Trinidad.
6. St. Vincent.

I. *Increase in the Number of Marriages in the Colonies generally:*

Growing disposition among the negro population to take upon themselves the obligations of marriage, and to fulfil the duties of domestic life, *Rep.* 4.

II. *In particular Colonies:*

1. Barbados:

Marriage is more frequent than before freedom, *Sharpe* 1562——Marriage is a rite which only of late years has been practised in Barbados, *Carrington* 1738.

2. British Guiana:

Marriages have increased very considerably since the commencement of freedom; during slavery, marriages were very rare, *Allen* 3530, 3531.

3. Jamaica:

Marriages have become more common, since the emancipation of the negroes, *Barrett* 5262–5264; *Spalding* 5744–5746; *Knibb* 6042; *St. John* 7082, 7083.

4. St. Kitts:

The number of marriages has increased since emancipation; difficulty about marriages in the time of slavery, *Estridge* 3146–3151. 3284–3288.

5. Trinidad:

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6. St. Vincent:

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Master and Servant's Act. Provisions of this Act adverted to, *Grant* 392–404.

Masters and Servants:

British Guiana.—The negroes do not at all see that their interests and those of the proprietors are identified, *Barkly* 2623, 2624——Relative position of masters and servants in British Guiana; statement as to how far the labouring population are contented and satisfied with the position in which they are placed by the existing laws, *Scoble* 4205, 4206. 4215——The conduct generally on the part of managers of estates towards the negroes has not been conciliatory; the result has been a great dissatisfaction on the part of the negroes, *Ib.* 4272–4274.

Jamaica.—The feeling of the population towards their employers is much better than it was some years ago, *Geddes* 6945.

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Maxwell, Mr. Extract from evidence given by Mr. Maxwell before the agricultural committee, Trinidad, 22d March 1841, *App.* 586.

Mayers, J. B. See *Condition of the Negroes.*

Medical Attendance:

Jamaica.—The custom which prevails in some of the West India colonies of the proprietors paying for medical attendance as part of the wages, does not prevail in Jamaica, *M'Cornock* 4760–4764——The custom of giving gratuitous medical attendance as part of the earnings is adopted in some districts, *Spalding* 5747, 5748——Diminution in the supply of medical men; indisposition on the part of the negroes to pay for medical attendance, *Geddes* 6905-6908——Indisposition of the negroes to avail themselves of medical aid when sick; consequent mortality; to what this indisposition may be attributed, *Candler* 7667, 7668. 7833–7838. 7891–7893.

St. Vincent.—Cost of medicine and medical attendance per head, *Grant* 514.

See also *Population.*

Medical Men (Jamaica.) A great number of medical men have left the island; cause of this, *Spalding* 5937.

Medicine. See *Medical Attendance.*

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METAIRIE SYSTEM OF CULTIVATION AND TENANCY:

1. *In Barbados.*
2. *In British Guiana.*
3. *In Grenada.*
4. *In Jamaica.*
5. *In Trinidad.*
6. *In St. Vincent.*

1. *In Barbados:*

Giving the negroes an interest in the profits of the estate would not be productive of any good result, *Sharpe* 1603–1609——Assistance rendered to the labourer in his production of sugar, by the proprietor of whom he hires the land; quantity of the produce which comes to the proprietor and quantity to the labourer, *Ib.* 1656–1661. 1701——Whether it would be possible and advantageous to get the negroes in Barbados to take an acre of land and cultivate it themselves, and render the canes to the mill, and take a certain portion of it for their trouble, *Ib.* 1663–1665.

2. *In British Guiana:*

It would be desirable to introduce into British Guiana a system of letting lands to the labourers, *Allen* 3537–3545——Nature of the system adopted in Berbice and in Hayti, *Ross* 7563, 7564——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 3 May 1842, enclosing documents respecting the proposed plan of cultivating sugar, upon the principle of sharing the produce between the planters and the labourers, *App.* 717.

3. *In Grenada:*

Witness has practically carried the metairie system into operation upon his own estate at Grenada, with reference to the cultivation of coffee and cocoa, *Ross* 7486–7488——It is only partially applied in Grenada to the cultivation of sugar; it is equally applicable to such cultivation, *Ib.* 7489, 7490. 7507–7511——Details with reference to this system of tenancy, *Ib.* 7491–7500. 7537–7550. 7558–7562——Profit derived under the system, *Ib.* 7501–7506——Manner in which the share of the produce is ascertained and paid to the negroes, *Ib.* 7522–7530——Supposing the system alluded to to be carried out, manner in which the manufacture of the sugar is to be attained, *Ib.* 7553–7555.

4. *In Jamaica:*

The metairie system of rents would not answer well at present in Jamaica, *Lowndes* 5037, 5038; *Metcalfe* 7431–7435——A system of letting land so as to make the labourer a joint sharer in the produce, would in many instances be attended with advantage, *Barrett* 5369, 5370——Impossibility of applying this system to sugar estates, *Candler* 7879–7883——Copy of despatch from Sir C. T. Metcalfe, dated 26 April 1842, transmitting communication respecting a plan for manufacturing sugar from canes produced by the owners of small freeholds, *App.* 637.

5. *In Trinidad:*

Impracticability of introducing into the island of Trinidad the practice which has been adopted in St. Lucia, of allowing the negroes to have part of the profit that results from the cultivation of sugar, *Burnley* 828——Steps already taken to introduce the metairie system of cultivation and tenancy into Trinidad, *Ross* 7556, 7557.

6. *In St. Vincent:*

Nobody has yet tried the system in the island of St. Vincent or Trinidad, except witness, *Ross* 7556, 7557.

See also *East Indies. Manufacture of Sugar. Rents.*

Metcalfe, Right hon. Sir *C. T.,* G.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has lately returned to England after having filled the situation of governor in the colony of Jamaica for about two years and nine months, 7298, 7299——Great distress felt on the part of the proprietors; the principal causes of the distress are the expenses of cultivation, and in many cases the want of constant and continuous labour, 7300–7309——The only remedy that witness can suggest would be by an increase of population by means of immigration, 7310, 7311——Immigration has already taken place, but to an inconsiderable extent, 7312, 7313——Witness would recommend the necessary immigration from Africa; the African appears to be the best suited as a labourer in Jamaica, 7314——It might take place to any extent, and for any length of time, within the bounds of probability as to its practical results, 7315——The importation of Europeans, merely with a view of their going into the market for labour, must be abandoned, 7316——Circumstances which interfere with the success of European emigration, 7317, 7318——In some instances, in healthy parts of the island, Europeans have done well, 7319, 7320.

Witness would recommend that immigration should be under the control of the Legislature and the government of the colony, 7321——There are no parties capable of defraying

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Metcalfe, Right Hon. Sir *C. T.* G.C.B. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

defraying the expenses of an extensive European emigration, unless this country should take it up; this is not probable, 7322——The unavoidable expense per head of immigration from the coast of Africa would be from 6*l.* to 8*l.*, 7323, 7325——The colony would be able to undertake the expense of importing immigrants from Africa, 7324, 7325. 7448——The African immigrants on their arrival in Jamaica would immediately find wages such as they would desire, and their condition would be in every respect comfortable, 7326–7328——The provisions of the present law are sufficient to afford adequate security for the protection of all immigrants, both during their voyage and on their arrival in the colony, 7329——Any attempt at greater stringency in enforcing labour would produce much discontent and dissatisfaction throughout the island; the existing laws regarding the relation between the labourer and the employer are amply sufficient for the protection of the neighbouring population and of the employer of labour, 7330–7337. 7357–7366. 7371–7379.

The remuneration for labour in the island is found too expensive for the estates to afford; difficulty of diminishing this remuneration, 7338, 7339——The benefits derived by the negroes from their provision grounds are such as to cause them to be indifferent as to the labour they perform; this is the act of the proprietors themselves, they alone have the means of remedying it, 7340–7343——The judicial system in Jamaica is adequate and satisfactory, 7344——Great addition made since emancipation to the religious and general instruction of the negroes, 7345–7349——The results of emancipation as affecting the character and habits of the negro population have been in the highest degree satisfactory, 7350–7352——They are acquiring property rapidly; this causes an increase of political rights and powers; there is no danger to be apprehended from this increase, 7353–7355. 7383–7388——It would be unjust to effect any alteration in the system of taxation in Jamaica, so as to make it fall more directly upon the negroes, 7356. 7370–7382——The present taxes press very severely upon the planters; the island of Jamaica is very heavily taxed, 7367–7369——The present difficulty of carrying on the sugar cultivation in Jamaica arises, to a considerable extent, from the too great independence of the negroes, owing to the facility with which they obtain land and the very great demand for their labour, 7380, 7381.

Evidence respecting the management of the expediture of the colony; first, generally; secondly, respecting the police; thirdly, as to the militia and the British troops; witness has never been aware of any abuses in the expenditure of the colony, 7389–7426——According to his property and means the negro is now taxed in the same proportion as proprietors are, 7427–7430. 7437——No particular benefit would be derived from the adoption of what is called the Metairie system of tenancy in Jamaica; it has not been tried there yet, 7431–7438——There is a great want of capital in Jamaica at the present time, 7436——The absence of proprietors is a serious evil, 7438, 7439——There are no estates in Jamaica but what are capable of being kept in cultivation, 7440, 7441——Crime has been rather on the increase within the last three years, 7442–7444——Number of immigrants which have been already introduced, 7445——Fifty thousand pounds per annum was advanced by the Assembly for three years, for immigration; 20,000*l.* is all the limit of the last grant, 7446——Number of immigrants that should be introduced into Jamaica in order to keep up the cultivation, 7447——The conduct of the negroes who have been hitherto introduced has been perfectly satisfactory; there is no jealousy subsisting between them and the other labouring population of the island; there has been occasionally a little competition of labour, 7449–7451.

Probability of a continued system of independent settlement on the part of the negroes' checking in a great degree the advantages to be derived from any immigration, however extensive, 7452–7454——There is no reasonable probability of deriving any large supply of labour from the United States of America, 7455–7457——Doubts as to whether any attempt to purchase negroes from the proprietors in the southern states of North America, with a view to introduce them as free labourers into the West Indies, and make them pay the money advanced for their discharge, by degrees, out of their wages, would be successful, 7459–7464——Africans from the coast are found to answer very well, 7465, 7466——There is no law in operation to prevent the sale, by the negro, of a limited quantity of sugar or coffee, 7467–7469—— The amount of parochial taxation is very large in Jamaica; by whom levied; by whom disbursed, 7470–7473——There are no poor at present in Jamaica, 7474——Difficulties in the way of immigration from the East Indies, 7475–7479——Reasons for supposing that the children of the negroes must by and by take to habits of industry, 7480, 7481.

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Mico Charity (British Guiana). Public schools have been erected by the Mico charity, *Campbell,* 2186–2188.——*See* also *Education,* 1. 2. 3.

Migration (Jamaica). The aversion evinced by the negroes during slavery to leaving estates has not been in existence since freedom, *Geddes* 6974, 6975.

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Missionaries:

British Guiana.—Religious bodies which have established missions in the colony enumerated; how they are chiefly supported, *Scoble* 4256, 4257.

Jamaica.—The prosperity of the missionaries depends in a great measure upon the prosperity of the estates, *Knibb* 6296, 6297.

Mogass. Mogass is the refuse of the cane after being squeezed; the woody fibre of the cane after the juice is extracted, *Grant* 230.

Molasses. See *Antigua. Kitt's, St. Sugars.*

Money Wages:

British Guiana.—The labourers are paid money wages pretty regularly, *Allen* 3675–3678——The smallness of the money wages is one of the causes of the present distress in British Guiana, *Scoble* 4376.

Jamaica.—The wages of the labourers on witness's estate were always paid in money, *Barrett* 5184——The present rate of money wages which the labourers receive is adequate to their maintenance, *Knibb* 5990——Witness pays the wages in money generally every week, *Geddes* 6737–6741.

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Monthly Contracts (St. Vincent).—Practice with respect to implied monthly contracts between master and servant, *Grant* 540–544.

Morals of the Negroes:

Barbados.—The state of morals is better than it was previously to emancipation, *Sharpe* 1564–1566. 1610, 1611.

British Guiana.—The morals of the negroes and their general condition have improved very much since the commencement of freedom, *Allen* 3527. 3529. 3535, 3536.

Jamaica.—The moral character of the negroes has been raised since the commencement of freedom; they are attentive to their religious duties; their children are regular in their attendance at school, *M'Cornock* 4770–4772; *Lowndes* 5070, 5071; *Barrett* 5439; *Knibb* 6039, 6040; *Candler* 7658, 7659——They attend divine service regularly; the Sabbath is much better observed in Jamaica than in England, *Knibb* 6041.

Trinidad.—The practice of supplying the labourers gratuitously with rum has conduced greatly to deprave their morals, *Burnley* 727——Reason assigned by the bishop of Agna for the superior sobriety and morality of the negroes of St. Lucia, as compared with those of Trinidad, *Burnley* 728–746.

See also *Condition of the Negroes*, 1. *Education*, I. 6. *Habits of the Negroes. Immigration* II. 2. vii.

Morant Estate, St. Thomas-in-the-East (Jamaica). Average produce of that estate during slavery, *Browne* 6488——Number of people on the property when the valuators took an account of them for compensation, *Ib.* 6491–6494——Employment of jobbing labourers to assist in the cultivation of the estate, *Ib.* 6495–6500——Evidence respecting the management of the affairs connected with the estate, *Ib.* 6579–6635.

Mortality (British Guiana). Decrease in the ratio of mortality among the immigrants, *Barkly* 2555——Copy of a despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 9th May 1842, enclosing return of mortality between the troops in garrison and the various classes of immigrants, *App.* 722.

See also *Hill Coolies. Medical Attendance.*

Mortgages (Jamaica). A great portion of the estates in Jamaica at the time of the emancipation were mortgaged; in many cases the compensation-money was awarded to the mortgagees; the intentions of the Government were not frustrated thereby, *Spalding* 5891–5894——There are many estates mortgaged now; whether this would prevent any sum of money, advanced by this country for the purpose of immigration, being repaid at an early period, *Ib.* 5917–5921.

Mountain Roads (St. Vincent). Causes of the bad state of the mountain roads, *Grant* 328–331.

N.

Native Government (Jamaica). The black population of Jamaica, in the event of the island being given up to them, would be unable to govern it for half a century to come, the adults being totally uneducated, *Geddes* 6795.

Native Labour (Jamaica). The labour of the present negro population is to be preferred to that of immigrants, if they could be induced to labour continuously, *Geddes* 6972.

Neilson,

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Neilson, Robert. Error of a statement by Mr. Robert Neilson, that a return of upwards of 20 *s.* per cent., in addition to the contingent expenditure, is required to give the proprietor a moderate per-centage on his capital, *Bushe* 4058, 4059.

Notices. See *Ejectment of Labourers. Provision Grounds,* II. 1.

Nugent, Nicholas, M. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is acquainted with the colony of Antigua; honorary appointments held there by him; proprietor of estates there; other estates of which he had the management besides his own, 2731–2738——Principal products of Antigua; extent of the island; nearly the whole of it is available for some sort of cultivation, 2739–2742——Population of the island; slave population prior to emancipation; the population has increased since, 2743–2745——Law in Antigua for the regulation of labour; it has been found satisfactory, 2746–2749——The labourers have a dwelling and ground in part payment of wages, 2750–2753——There is no ejectment of labourers; the contract ceases when they wish to withdraw, or the master wishes that they should be discharged, for which there is always notice of a month between master and servant, as in England, 2754, 2755——There has been no complaint in the island of Antigua with regard to labour having become less continuous of late years than formerly, 2756——Usual rate of wages given to a plantation labourer; number of hours labour required, 2757, 2758. 2760–2777——The adult women work, and are considered equally efficient with the male labourers, 2759——The number of effective labourers resident upon witness's estate is less than it was during slavery by one-third; there has been no diminution in the sugar return of the property, 2778–2790.

Fertility of the colony of Antigua; evidence respecting the cultivation of the canes; produce per acre, 2791–2794. 2800–2810——Manure is used to a very great extent; a great quantity is imported, 2795–2799——The complaints in Antigua are rather of a difficulty in finding money to pay the wages than of a want of a supply of labour, 2811–2814——The contract law in Antigua, which regulates the relations between master and servant, has prevented any difficulty in obtaining continuous labour, 2815–2821——Most of the magistrates in the island are unpaid magistrates, consisting of the gentry of the country, 2819, 2820——There has been no immigration of labourers into the island; there has been a certain emigration from the island, but not to any distressing extent, 2822, 2823——No property, excepting in small plots, has ever been purchased by free labourers in Antigua; they confine themselves to the cultivation of provisions, 2824–2831.

Extent to which emigration has taken place from Antigua; it has been chiefly to Trinidad and Demerara; the island could not endure any extended emigration, 2832–2836——The expense of cultivating an estate in Antigua at the present time is just beyond the amount of slave labour, 2837–2839——Return delivered in to show that the production of sugar in the island of Antigua has not at all declined upon a long average of years, 2840–2846——The exports of Antigua have not undergone any considerable change since the establishment of freedom, 2840——The imports have increased exceedingly, 2847–2851——Revenue of Antigua, 2852–2854——Favourable effect of emancipation upon the character and habits of the negro population; their attendance at schools, and at many places of religious worship, is a strong indication of this 2855, 2856——Increase in the number of churches and schools since the commencement of freedom; this has been caused, to a certain extent, by an act of the legislature, but not exclusively, 2857, 2858. 2860–2870——Efforts made by the negroes themselves to supply funds for building churches and for carrying on schools, 2859.

The use of the plough is very general indeed in the island; other mechanical means used for cultivating the land, 2871–2874——The horse-hoe is not used; it has not altogether succeeded, 2875——The use of machinery has tended much to economise the cost of production, 2876–2879——The free-labour of Antigua could not compete with the slave-labour of Cuba and the Brazils, 2880–2888——Respect in which the public and parochial taxes have increased since emancipation, 2889–2892——There are Acts and laws in Antigua for the relief of the poor; the system is not analogous to the law of England; nature and administration of the law described, 2893–2913——The negroes in Antigua were in a more civilized state in 1834 than they were generally in the other islands, 2914, 2915——Respect in which the climate of Antigua enables the planters to have a better command of labour in that colony than in most of the others, 2916–2919——Calculation as to what would be a remunerating price for sugar and rum, 2920–2930. 2948, 2949.

The island of Antigua is capable of sustaining a much greater population, 2931, 2933——The laws between master and labourer passed in Antigua in 1834, were disallowed by the other legislative colonies in 1838, 2933–2935——Attendance paid by the natives of Antigua to public worship, 2936–2943——Emancipation was entered upon very suddenly in Antigua; there was no remarkable change immediately that emancipation took place, 2944, 2945——Proportion of land in Antigua out of cultivation; there is no Crown land, or any public land of that sort, 2946, 2947——The prospects of the island, in a mercantile point of view, have been benefited by emancipation, 2950——Landed property in the island is more valuable now than it was in times of slavery, 2951–2955.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Nugent, Nicholas, M. D. (Analysis of his Evidence)--*continued.*

2986, 2987. 2989——Number of acres of land in cultivation in Antigua during the last year of slavery; number of slaves upon the island at that time, 2956–2959——Increase in the consumption of rum in the island since emancipation, 2960–2963.

There has been no alteration in the fertility of the soil of Antigua since witness has known it, 2964——With sufficient labour and fair wages, the production of sugar would be cheaper under free labour than under slave labour, anywhere, 2965–2968——A great degree of economy might be introduced into the cultivation of sugar in Antigua, 2969–2971. 2975, 2976——It would be a beneficial circumstance for the island if the proprietors generally resided upon their estates, 2972–2974——Number of steam engines used in the island in the manufacture of sugar, 2977——Probable effect upon the labourers if a considerable diminution in the price of sugar took place in England, 2978–2980——The labourers of Antigua are very well off at the present rate of wages; they are enabled for the most part to save money; they are prudent in their habits, 2981–2983——Many of them have purchased land; rate at which they purchased it, 2984, 2985.

O.

Overseers of Estates (Jamaica.) Usual rate of remuneration of overseers of estates, *Lowndes* 5086.

See also *Abandonment of Estates,* III. 1.

P.

Paradise Estate (Trinidad.) Cost of cultivating an acre of wood land in Trinidad, on Paradise estate, producing two hogsheads of sugar, *Ev. p.* 97——Cost of cultivating an acre of ratoon canes, yielding one hogshead and a half of sugar per acre, *Ib.* 98——Detail of the whole cost of the cultivation and manufacture of the produce of an acre of cane land in Harmony Hall and Paradise estates, *Church* 1287–1298——Cost of cultivating an acre of wood or brush land producing two hogsheads of sugar, *Ev. p.* 107——Cost of cultivating an acre of ratoon canes, yielding one and a half hogshead, *Ib.* 108——Comparative statement of the produce of sugar of Harmony Hall and Paradise estates, during the last three years of slavery, the three years of apprenticeship, and since the commencement of freedom, *Church* 1403–1409.

Parochial Taxes (Jamaica). The parochial taxes are a considerable burthen upon a sugar estate; advantages that would arise from making the taxation press more upon the negroes and less upon the sugar estates, *M'Cornock* 4814–4823. 4830, 4831——Complaints made of the amount and mode of expenditure of the parochial taxes, *Candler* 7673–7676. 7839.——*See* also *Taxation.*

Pasture Land (Jamaica.) The land thrown out of cultivation for sugar is now in pasture; there is a superabundance of pasture land, *Lowndes* 5030, 5031.

Plough, The:

Antigua.—The use of the plough is very general indeed in the island; other mechanical means used for cultivating the land, *Nugent* 2871–2874.

Barbados.—The plough is used in Barbados, but not generally, *Sharpe* 1631; *Carrington* 1804.

Grenada.—The plough is used to a great extent in Grenada, *Barkly* 2728, 2729.

Jamaica.—The use of the plough has become more universal since the recent changes than it was, *M'Cornock* 4788; *Geddes* 6826–6828——Evidence respecting the use of the plough in Jamaica, *Lowndes* 5050–5053——Increased disposition on the part of the planters to encourage cheap production by means of the plough and other instruments, *Candler* 7642——The plough might be more generally used in the cultivation of estates, *Ib.* 7887, 7888.

St. Kitt's.—The plough is in general, but by no means universal, use, *Estridge* 3128.

Trinidad.—Attempt made to introduce the plough; it cannot be used so advantageously in Trinidad as in some of the other islands, on account of the nature of the soil, *Burnley* 876, 877——The plough is not used in Trinidad; in Grenada it is, *Church* 1168——Some years must elapse before the plough can be used to good advantage in Trinidad, *Ib.* 1371–1375——It has been used on some estates, *Bushe* 4134.

See also *Machinery,* 2.

Police:

British Guiana.—Effectiveness of the police at Berbice, *Barkly* 2531——The police regulations in British Guiana are pretty similar to those in this country; force of police in the colony; it is found to be efficient, *Allen* 3442–3450——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 2d February 1842, transmitting copy of letter from Mr. Mure concerning obstruction to the police by labourers, and of Governor's address to the parties concerned, *App.* 678.

Jamaica.—

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Police— continued.

Jamaica.—The police force will increase with increase of population, *Barrett* 5438——It is at present sufficient for the colony, *Ib.* 5487.

Trinidad.—Police regulations in Trinidad, *Bushe* 3971–3973.

See also *Administration of Justice. Rural Police.*

Political Power of the Negroes (Jamaica). The black population of Jamaica, from the increase of their property and the purchase of freeholds, are gradually acquiring political power, *Knibb* 6095–6099——They are acquiring property rapidly; this causes an increase of political rights and power; there is no danger to be apprehended from this increase, *Metcalfe* 7353–7355. 7383–7388——Acquisition of political power by the negroes, *Candler* 7672.

Polygamy (Barbados). Polygamy is not a punishable offence; it is not so prevalent as it used to be, *Carrington* 1897, 1898.

Poor Laws:

Antigua.—There are acts and laws in Antigua for the relief of the poor; the system is not analogous to the law of England; nature and administration of the law described, *Nugent* 2893–2913.

Jamaica.—Nature of the poor law in Jamaica, *M'Cornock* 4780–4785——Some of the parishes give assistance to the poor; in general they are provided for by their relations on the estates, *Spalding* 5833–5835——Public provision for the poor in Jamaica; how raised; how administered, *Knibb* 6043–6049.

St. Kitt's.—Evidence respecting the unions or poorhouses, established by an Act of the island for the relief of the poor, *Estridge* 3205–3210*.

Trinidad.—The aged and infirm are taken care of by themselves; there is no poor law, *Bushe* 4178–4184.——*See* also *Aged and Infirm Negroes.*

Population:

Antigua.—The island of Antigua is capable of sustaining a much greater population, *Nugent* 2931, 2932.

British Guiana.—The negro population in British Guiana is decidedly increasing by natural causes, *Allen* 3797–3800.

Jamaica.—Official statement of the number of the labouring population at the time of the termination of slavery in Jamaica; at that time there were very few free labourers, *Burge* 4431–4442——Comparative state of the population of Jamaica, at the time of emancipation and at the present period; the population is decidedly increasing from natural causes, *M'Cornock* 4756–4759——The population of the colony has increased considerably, from natural causes, since the abolition of slavery, *Lowndes* 5066–5068; *Barnett* 5260, 5261; *Knibb* 6077; *St. John* 7086——The population is on the increase by natural means in a large ratio; if the negroes could be induced to call in medical aid in case of sickness, the population would double in the next thirty years, *Geddes* 6889–6890.

White population of Jamaica, *Barrett* 5421——The population in witness's district has not increased much from natural causes, *Spalding* 5743.

St. Kitt's.—Population of the colony of St. Kitt's, *Estridge* 2998.

Trinidad.—All the evils arise from a want of population; the planter must pay the whole taxation until this is remedied, *Burnley* 697——Difficulty of telling whether the population of the colony has increased since the abolition of slavery, by natural increase, *Ib.* 906——The population of Trinidad has been increasing to a great extent from natural causes, *Bushe* 3964.

See also *Antigua. Barbados*, 1. *Census. Police. Sorsano*, Mr.

Portuguese Immigrants (British Guiana). The Portuguese immigrants have become very sickly, *Campbell* 2245, 2246. *See* also *African Immigrants*, II. 1.

Pound Law (Jamaica). Copy of despatch from Sir C. T. Metcalfe to Lord Stanley, dated 26th April 1842, enclosing observations respecting the defects of the Pound Law, *App.* 636.

Price of Labour. See *Labour* II. 3. vi.

PRICE OF LAND:

1. *In the Colonies generally.*
2. *In Trinidad.*

1. *In the Colonies generally:*

Opinion of the Committee that the cheapness of land has been the main cause of the difficulties which have been experienced, arising from the excess of fertile land beyond the wants of the existing population, *Rep.* 4.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

PRICE OF LAND—continued.

2. *In Trinidad:*

Ordinary price of land in Trinidad since 1838, *Burnley* 636——The proprietors give too much facility at the present moment, in the purchase of land; the proprietors get very high prices; highest price paid by a negro for an acre, *Ib.* 648–651.

See also *Provision Grounds. Purchases of Land by the Negroes*, 4. 5.

Price of Sugar. The cultivation of sugar in St. Vincent is unprofitable; and if the price in England should fall much, the proprietors, especially those who owe money, would be ruined, *Grant* 550–555——Price at which sugar ought to be sold in this country in order to give a fair return to the planter, according to the present expenses of raising it in the colony of Trinidad, *Burnley* 1055–1064——A fall in the price of sugar would have the effect of crippling the means of the planters, and lessening the cultivation of the land; this would operate injuriously on the situation and welfare of the negro population of Barbados, *Sharpe* 1650–1655——The planter in Barbados would not get a remunerating price if sugar were cheaper than at present, *Carrington* 1831–1836. 1851, 1852.

During the last year the price of a hogshead of sugar was not sufficiently high to cover the expense of making it, in British Guiana, *Barkly* 2518–2522——Calculation as to what would be a remunerating price for sugar and rum, *Nugent* 2920–2930. 2948, 2949——Probable effect upon the labourers of Antigua if a considerable diminution in the price of sugar took place in England, *Ib.* 2978–2980——Price of sugar which would be a remunerative price to the cultivator, *Campbell* 2224–2226; *Barkly* 2582, 2583. 2585, 2586; *Bushe* 4025–4039; *M'Cornock* 4896–4899. 4904; *Barrett* 5359–5362——£. 20 per hogshead would be a remunerating price to the planter in British Guiana; many estates there have paid a remunerating price, *Allen* 3646–3650. 3661–3669——If there has been a reduction in the price of sugar, there has also been a reduction in the expense of raising it, so far as negro labour is concerned, *Scoble* 4242.

See also *Cuba. East Indies. Slave Labour.*

Price of Provisions. See *Provision Grounds. Provisions.*

Primitive Land (Jamaica). Expense per acre of reclaiming primitive land covered with virgin wood, and rendering it fit for the planting of coffee, *Spalding* 5516–5521.

See also *Jamaica.*

Prisons. State of the prisons in the West Indies previous to the Prisons' Act; the erection of prisons was a necessary expense, *Barrett* 5427–5437.

Proceedings of the Committee. Summary thereof, *Rep.* 6–15.

PRODUCE:

I. *Generally.*
II. *In Particular Colonies.*
1. British Guiana.
2. Jamaica.
3. St. Kitt's.

1. *Generally:*

Great diminution in the staple productions of the West Indies, and ruinous injury to the proprietors of estates in those colonies, simultaneous with the amendment in the condition of the negroes, *Rep.* 4.

II. *In Particular Colonies:*

1. British Guiana:

Average production of British Guiana before and since the introduction of the free system; to what the enormous diminution is to be attributed, *Barkly* 2370–2372——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 11th April 1842, forwarding copy of the return of produce shipped from British Guiana in the first quarter of 1842, *App.* 712——Also, despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 5th May 1842, enclosing statement of produce made in Demerara and Essequibo, from 1835 to 1841, and amount of taxes paid in those years, *Ib.* 718.

2. Jamaica:

The produce of witness's property in Jamaica has greatly diminished since the emancipation of the slaves; extent to which it has diminished, *Malcolm* 7289–7293.

3. St. Kitt's:

The produce of witness's estate has not fallen off since the commencement of freedom, *Estridge* 3068–3070.

See also *Abandonment of Estates*, III. 3. *Antigua. Barbados. British Guiana. Continuous Labour*, I. II. 3. iii. *Droughts* (Jamaica). *Exports. Grenada. Immigration*, II. 1. i. *Imports and Exports. Jamaica. Labour. Paradise Estate* (Trinidad). *Provision Grounds*, II. 1. *Sugar. Taxation.*

Profits

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Profits (Jamaica). The profits of witness's estates were diminished during the period of apprenticeship, as compared with the profits during slavery, *Bernal* 6457-6459.
See also *Jamaica. Provision Grounds,* II. 1. 6.

Proprietors. See *Absenteeism. Taxation.*

Provision Grounds:

I. *Generally.*
II. *In different Colonies.*
1. Barbados.
2. British Guiana.
3. Grenada.
4. Jamaica.
i. Extent of Ground held by the Negroes; Terms upon which held.
ii. Chief Productions cultivated.
iii. Profits derived by the Negroes from their Grounds.
iv. Necessity for a Restriction in the System of allowing Provision Grounds.
5. St. Kitt's.
6. Trinidad.
7. St. Vincent.
i. Generally.
ii. Law and Practice with regard to the Occupation of Provision Grounds.
iii. Profit derived by the Negro from these Grounds.

I. *Generally:*

The labourers generally are allowed to occupy provision grounds, subject to no rent, or at a very low one, and the land they thus hold not only yields them an ample supply of food, but in many cases a considerable overplus in money, in addition to the high money wages which they receive, *Rep.* 4.

II. *In different Colonies:*

1. Barbados.

Extent to which the labourers on witness's estate occupy land belonging to it, *Carrington* 1739–1741——Rents are received from the negroes for the lands occupied by them, *Ib.* 1767, 1768——Nature of the crops which the labourers usually grow upon their plots of land, *Sharpe* 1478-1484——In the event of labourers leaving their holdings, no notice is given between the parties, *Ib.* 1484——Many of the small holders, who occupy only a quarter of an acre, prefer growing sugar canes instead of provisions, when the soil is productive, *Ib.* 1482——How the land rented by the negroes is cultivated, *Carrington* 1751. 1754–1759.

The labourer derives considerable profit from his land in provisions, *Sharpe* 1481——The land cultivated by the negroes for their own benefit usually produces less than the land they cultivate for the estate, *Ib.* 1616–1618——Largest sum witness has known to be made by a negro from lands hired and cultivated by him, *Ib.* 1702–1706——The negroes all have land, which furnishes them with abundant means of subsistence from the means it gives them of raising stock, *Carrington* 1865.

2. British Guiana:

The land that is abandoned is sold in small lots to negroes, who build their houses on them, and cultivate provisions, *Campbell* 2026–2030——They find a large and profitable market for their provisions, *Ib.* 2213–2217——They never cultivate canes, *Ib.* 2220–2221——Reason of the reluctance on the part of the natives to cultivate sugar canes, *Barkly* 2581——Impolicy of the 13th rule respecting a proprietor denying his labourers the occupation of provision grounds; motive which might have prevailed to have induced the adoption of this restriction, *Allen* 3502–3507.

3. Grenada:

In Grenada the negroes raise a large quantity of provisions for export in addition to those for their own maintenance; the export of provisions to Trinidad is as great as of labourers, *Barkly* 2703–2705——Quantity of land usually held; quantity which would be applicable to sugar cultivation, *Ross* 7512–7521——Failure of crops; facility with which negroes maintain themselves on an estate in the West Indies, *Ib.* 7531–7536.

4. Jamaica:

i. Extent of Ground held by the Negroes; Terms upon which held:

Terms upon which the labourers upon witness's estates rent their houses and gardens; they are allowed to cultivate provision grounds on sufferance: they had as much as they chose to cultivate; they paid no rent, *Lowndes* 4961–4977——Quantity of land occupied by each labourer in the shape of provision ground; there is no rent paid, *Spalding,* 5540, 5541——The labourers generally hold their huts and provision grounds by weekly tenancy, *Knibb* 5991–5993——Extent of grounds held by the negroes on witness's estate, *Browne* 6569, 6570.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Provision Grounds—II. *In different Colonies*—4. Jamaica—*continued.*

ii. Chief Productions cultivated:

The labourers do not grow canes upon the land they purchase or rent, except for their own consumption and for feeding their pigs, *Lowndes* 5036——The negroes cultivate coffee, but never sugar, *Barrett* 5340——Chief productions cultivated, ready market found for those productions, *St. John* 7056–7058——Successful and diligent cultivation by the negroes of their grounds, *Candler* 7663, 7664.

iii. Profits derived by the Negroes from their Grounds:

The labourers raise more than sufficient provisions on their grounds to supply their families, and are thereby enabled to make a great deal of money by selling provisions, *M'Cornock* 4637–4639——They cannot make so much from their provision grounds as they would get by labouring upon a sugar estate for wages, *Lowndes* 5010——If a negro has the occupation of four or five acres of land, he is able to grow a large quantity of provisions for the purpose of sale, *Barrett* 5308, 5309.

Statement of the proceeds of land cultivated in provisions at the present and late current prices, to show that the negro in one year can realise three or four times as much as is necessary to purchase an acre of land and make himself quite independent, *Ev. p.* 404, 405——Net revenue arising from the cultivation of three acres of provision ground; it would not be practicable for a proprietor to grow these provisions instead of sugar and coffee, *Spalding* 5908–5913——Whether immigrants would take to the cultivation of provisions; large profits yielded to the negroes by the cultivation, *Geddes* 6969–6971. 6977–6985——The benefits derived by the negroes from their provision grounds are such as to cause them to be indifferent as to the labour they perform; this is the act of the proprietors themselves, they alone have the means of remedying it, *Metcalf* 7340–7343.

iv. Necessity for a Restriction in the System of allowing Provision Grounds:

One great source of the distress in Jamaica is that the negroes were taught to place their sole reliance for subsistence upon the cultivation of roots common to the country, *Geddes* 6717——A limitation by the planters of the great advantages which the labourers derive from their provision grounds might be desirable, but it would be very dangerous and unjust, *Ib.* 6883–6888——Probable effect of compelling the negro to pay a high land-tax for his provision ground, *St. John* 7046, 7047——Expediency of a restriction in the system of provision grounds; failure of an attempt to let land to the negroes, *Ib.* 7048-7055. 7066.

5. St. Kitts:

The labourers occupy the grounds upon condition that they are to work for the estate; rent has not been paid in any instance; they occupy as much ground with their houses as they wish, *Estridge* 3015–3023——The negroes employ the money they save in renting lands, for the purpose of growing provisions; quantity usually rented, *Ib.* 3184–3202. 3322.

6. Trinidad.

Witness's labourers occupy as much land with their houses as they choose to cultivate, *Church* 1265——Produce cultivated by the negroes on their own account, *Ib.* 1272-1274——Extent of provision grounds witness allows to his labourers; number of labourers he has upon an estate, *Bushe* 3865–3867——They never cultivate sugar upon the lands purchased or rented by them, *Ib.* 3898.

7. St. Vincent:

i. Generally:

The negroes never manure provision grounds, *Grant* 286——The men cultivate their provision grounds on Saturdays, and the women take the produce to market, *Ib.* 494, 495——Distance of the provision grounds from the huts of the negroes; length of occupation; deterioration of the soil from the mode of culture, *Ib.* 496–508.

ii. Law and Practice with regard to the Occupation of Provision Grounds:

Law and practice regarding the occupation of provision grounds by the labourers, *Grant* 39–45. 47—— Objections to any system for the payment of rent for provision grounds, *Ib.* 46——Price at which an acre of such land has been sold, and afterwards sub-sold by the negroes, *Ib.* 65–70——Difficulties in the way of making negroes rent their huts and provision grounds, and thus offering an inducement to labour, *Ib.* 252–270.

iii. Profit

Report, 1842—*continued.*

PROVISION GROUNDS—II. *In different Colonies*—7. St. Vincent—continued.

iii. Profit derived by the Negro from these Grounds:

A negro family can clear 100 dollars a year out of their provision grounds after keeping themselves; estimated annual money value of the house and ground, *Grant* 60–64—— The labour of the negroes on their provision grounds was more valuable to them than labour on the estate, and thus drew them away, *Ib.* 108——An industrious family may clear 100 dollars by their provision ground besides the labourer's pay, *Ib.* 271–273—— Manner in which the labourer disposes of the provisions raised on his own ground; as production increases, the profit will decrease, *Ib.* 287–296——Profitable employment on provision grounds does not exist in all other islands, nor in St. Vincent without exception, *Ib.* 311, 312——Grounds on which the profits of provision grounds may be estimated, *Ib.* 527–531.

See also *Allowances to Labourers. Coffee. Continuous Labour*, II. 3. ii. *Ejectment of Labourers*, I. 2. *Gardens* (Jamaica). *Golden Grove Estate* (Jamaica). *Immigration*, II. 5. *Rents. Task Work*, 5. *Trelawney* (Jamaica).

Provisions:

Jamaica.—A reduction in the price of provisions by the Customs Duties Act may be contemplated, *Barrett* 5470, 5471——The demand for provisions would not increase with an increase of population by means of immigration, *Spalding* 5757——The negroes are the principal growers of provisions for the use of the island, *Geddes* 6921——High price of the necessary articles of consumption, *Candler* 7625, 7626.

Trinidad.—Manner in which the negroes supply themselves with provisions; the prices of provisions have risen partially, *Burnley* 802-804. 806.

St. Vincent.—All the ground provisions are grown in the island; other kinds are imported, *Grant* 154, 155.

See also *Provision Grounds. Purchases of Land by the Negroes.*

Purchase of Estates by Negroes:

Barbados.—The negroes have not purchased any estates either individually or in company, *Sharpe* 1612, 1613.

British Guiana.—Reasons for supposing that the purchase of estates by negroes can exist in no other colony than Demerara, *Burnley* 647——Negroes have combined in companies of 50 or 100, and bought sugar estates for several thousand pounds; they only grow provisions on them, *Campbell* 2196–2212——Witness never knew of negroes purchasing an estate, but they have purchased considerable tracts of land; their object in purchasing it in companies was for the facility of dividing it among themselves subsequently, *Barkly* 2465, 2466. 2511–2515——Purchases of property that have been made within the last two years, *Ib.* 2550.

The emancipated negroes have purchased land extensively in different districts; in some cases they have paid an exorbitant price for it; they are bringing it into cultivation successfully, *Scoble* 4295–4298.

Trinidad.—There have been no instances of the purchase of estates by negroes in Trinidad, *Burnley* 647; *Church* 1270; *Bushe* 3893–3897.

St. Vincent.—There have been no instances of negroes combining to purchase estates, *Grant* 202, 203.

PURCHASES OF LAND BY THE NEGROES:

I. *Generally.*

II. *In particular Colonies:*

1. Antigua.
2. Barbados.
3. British Guiana.
4. Grenada.
5. Jamaica.
6. St. Kitt's.
7. Trinidad.

I. *Generally:*

Many of the former slaves have been enabled to purchase land, and the land they thus hold as owners and occupiers, not only yields them an ample supply of food, but in many cases a considerable overplus in money, *Rep.* 4.

II. *In particular Colonies:*

1. Antigua:

No property, excepting in small plots, has ever been purchased by free labourers in Antigua; they confine themselves to the cultivation of provisions, *Nugent* 2824–2831.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Purchases of Land by the Negroes—II. *In particular Colonies*—continued.

2. Barbados:

There are very few instances of negroes having purchased land, and that only in very small quantities, *Sharpe* 1533–1536——Purchases of lands by negroes has taken place to a very small extent, *Carrington* 1772, 1773.

3. British Guiana:

Facilities afforded to the negroes for getting small lots of land; of whom purchased, *Barkly* 2453–2456——Witness has always refused to sell any land upon his own estates to negroes, from a feeling that it would have a tendency to diminish the supply of labour, *Ib.* 2579, 2580——The sale of small lots of land to labourers is encouraged, *Allen* 3683.

4. Grenada:

There have been instances of negroes having purchased lots of land in Grenada, but not on the same scale as in Demerara, *Barkly* 2674, 2675——Negroes may obtain land at a very low rate, *Ib.* 2697–2700.

5. Jamaica:

Witness has sold the negroes large quantities of land in small lots; price at which sold; quantity usually purchased; expenses of conveyance, *Lowndes* 5011–5025——Some of the negroes have purchased small lots of land; they have taken up their location upon them; they work occasionally, but not regularly, *Barrett* 5304–5307——A number of witness's labourers have purchased land in the neighbourhood and settled on it; they work for witness when it suits their purpose, *Spalding* 5654. 5659.

Quantity of land usually purchased by the negroes, *Knibb* 6200–6207; *Geddes* 6775——The sale of the lands which the labourers have bought has not generally been brought about by the necessities of the planters, *Knibb* 6283, 6284——The mere purchase of land by the labouring population of Jamaica, so far as it has gone, is not to be viewed with alarm, *Geddes* 6745.

6. St. Kitt's:

There has been no land purchased by negroes in St. Kitt's, *Estridge* 3156–3161. 3181.

7. Trinidad:

The purchase of land by negroes has not taken place to any great extent in Trinidad, *Church* 1383–1390——Great facility for the negroes buying land at the present time in Trinidad, *Ib.* 1410–1416——Quantity of land sold to the labourers lately, *Bushe* 4078–4085.

See also *Cultivation. Price of Land. Purchase of Estates by the Negroes. Rents. Value of Estates.*

Q.

Quit-rents. See *Crown Lands* (Trinidad).

R.

Rate of Wages. See *Wages.*

Religion:

Antigua.—Attendance paid by the natives of Antigua to public worship, *Nugent* 2936–2943.

Barbados.—The negroes in Barbados, generally speaking, profess Christianity, *Carrington* 1782, 1783.

Jamaica.—The negroes on the witness's estate were mostly of the Established Church, but were obliged to become Dissenters, owing to the negligent attendance of the clergyman at the church, *Browne* 6519. 6550, 6551.

St. Kitt's.—Ample means of religious instruction in the island of St. Kitt's, *Estridge* 3132–3145.

Trinidad.—The negroes attend church better than they did before emancipation, *Church* 1257–1263.

See also *Morals of the Negroes. Religious Instruction.*

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Religious Instruction:

I. *Increasing Desire for Religious Instruction generally.*

II. *In various Colonies:*

1. Barbados.
2. British Guiana.
3. Jamaica.

I. *Increasing Desire for Religious Instruction generally:*

Improvement in the character of the negro population; increased and increasing desire for religious and general instruction, *Rep.* 4.

II. *In various Colonies:*

1. Barbados:

The means of religious instruction have increased considerably; the Sabbath is better observed, *Sharpe* 1562. 1567-1578——The negroes have become more religious since freedom commenced, so far as going to church is concerned, *Carrington* 1776.

2. British Guiana:

Moral and religious instruction of the negroes; erection of churches and schoolhouses; how provided, *Campbell* 2164-2185——Measures taken for the religious instruction of the negroes, *Barkly* 2439-2442——Extent to which religious and moral instruction has been afforded to the negroes by the legislature of the colony, *Ib.* 2556——The supply of religious and general instruction is now sufficient, *Allen* 3528——Impediments thrown in the way of the religious instruction of the negroes during slavery by the proprietors, *Ib.* 3609, 3610.

3. Jamaica:

Nature of the increased means of religious instruction which have been afforded by the Jamaica Legislature since the period of emancipation, *Burge* 4463, 4464. 4469-4471——Abstract of returns, dated 9th November 1836, showing the amount of the church and school expenditure for five years ending 30th September 1836, *Ib.* 4465, 4466; *Ev. p.* 327-329——The negroes are willing to pay for religious instruction, but not for education, *Spalding* 5945, 5946——Abundance of the means of religious and general instruction; the various missionary bodies have been mainly instrumental in reclaiming the negro population from Paganism; there is a minister of some denomination for every 1,900 persons, *Geddes* 6909-6912——Attendance of the negroes at Divine service; increasing attention paid to religious observances, *St. John* 7097-7103——Great addition made since emancipation to the religious and general instruction of the negroes, *Metcalfe* 7345. 7349.

See also *Education* I. 2. 6. II. 2. *Habits of the Negroes. Religion.*

Rents:

Barbados.—The payment of rent by the labourer does not give him an attachment to the soil that he occupies, and make him unwilling to migrate, *Sharpe* 1463-1475——Advantages that would be derived from a regular and uniform system of renting, *Carrington* 1737. 1742-1750. 1774——The system of rent is the basis of all improvement in the island, *Ib.* 1830. 1844-1846.

British Guiana.—It would be an excellent thing to get the labourers to pay rent and to raise wages; but they object to pay rent, *Campbell* 1952-1954; *Scoble* 4336-4343——Attempts made to establish a system of payment of rent among the labourers; circumstances which led to the attempt; its legality and result, *Barkly* 2346-2367——Copy of despatch from Governor Light to Lord Stanley, dated 28 March 1842, regarding the necessity of giving the labourers an interest in the land; improvements in the neighbourhood of George Town; enclosing copy of advertisement for letting sugar estates on the rental system of landlord and tenant, *App.* 706.

Grenada.—A rent system has been adopted in some instances in Grenada; it has not been considered to succeed, *Barkly* 2648-2665——Rent per acre in cases where land is let in Grenada; the quantity being small, it is chiefly for provision grounds for their own maintenance, *Ib.* 2676-2681——Impossibility of introducing the system of tenancy, called the Metairie system, recommended by Mr. Rose, into Grenada, *Ib.* 2722, 2723.

Jamaica.—Effect upon the negroes of the system of requiring them to pay rent, *Lowndes*, 5076-5083——Terms upon which the labourers residing upon witness's estate occupy their premises; evidence as to the rents paid; mode of recovering them, *Barrett* 5099-5127. 5159, 5160——The same system of rent was not adopted on the estates adjacent to witness's; difference of the system, *Ib.* 5129-5140——Practice on witness's estates as to the occupation of houses and lands by the labourers; it is the general custom in the island of Jamaica to make the labourers pay rent for the land they occupy, *Spalding* 5522-5528. 5899, 5900.

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Rents—continued.

Great dislike on the part of the negroes to pay any rent; they dislike the system of deducting the rent from their wages, *Spalding* 5529–5531. 5534–5539——A system of rent has no tendency to create on the part of the negro any local attachment to the property where he resides, *Ib.* 5532, 5533——The mixing up of the wages of labour and tenancy has given rise to great dissatisfaction on the part of the negroes, *Knibb* 5994, 5995. 6192–6197——The rent was formerly deducted from the wages, this was the cause of a little annoyance; the system is now discontinued, they pay when they please, *Ib.* 6073, 6074.

Course pursued by witness upon the estate of which he had the management with reference to the occupation of houses and grounds; quantity of land held by each labourer with his house; rents, &c., *Geddes* 6652–6661. 6675–6695——Difficulty in collecting the rents from the negroes; their decided objection to the payment of rent, *Ib.* 6670, 6671. 6743, 6744——The rent system became indispensable upon the labourers declining to work steadily, *Ib.* 6672.

St. Kitt's.—Inexpediency of adopting a system of payment of rent by the labourers, *Estridge* 3025–3027. 3311–3314——About two years ago a system of fine or rent was adopted, which has had a beneficial effect, *Ib.* 3058–3067.

Trinidad.—Any attempt to charge rent for the houses occupied by the negroes would be hopeless; it would be decidedly expedient to establish the system if it could be done, *Burnley* 619–631——Establishing a payment of rents by labourers would be very useful, *Church* 1094–1096——The system of payment of a fine or rent by labourers on the days they do not work has never been tried in Trinidad, *Bushe* 3877, 3878.

See also *Ejectment of Labourers*, I. 3. *Golden Grove Estate* (Jamaica). *Leases. Metairie System of Cultivation and Tenancy. Provision Grounds. Squatters.*

Residence of Proprietors. See *Absenteeism.*

Resolutions of the Committee. Resolutions contained in the Report of Committee, *Rep.* 4, 5——Resolutions proposed by Mr. Pakington, *Ib.* 6, 7——Resolutions proposed by Mr. Hawes, *Ib.* 7–9.

Revenue. See *Antigua. Barbados. British Guiana. St. Kitt's. Trinidad. Value of Estates. St. Vincent.*

Rewards (St. Vincent). Allowances of fish and sugar made to labourers to encourage them to work, *Grant* 56——Witness has given the negroes presents according to the quantity of sugar raised at the end of the year, *Ib.* 149.

Roads (Jamaica). Bad state of the roads generally in Jamaica; formerly they were kept up by statute labour; these means do not exist now; how the bad state of the roads adds to the expense of the cultivation, *Spalding* 5812–5821——Roads are one of the most important means of maintaining civilisation in a country, *Ib.* 5821, 5822——Way in which the roads are now managed in Jamaica; manner in which they ought to be managed, *Ib.* 5823–5832.——*See* also *Mountain Roads.*

Rose, Mr. Incorrectness of the report made by him, *Allen* 3631–3638.
See also *Rents.*

Ross, Henry James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has resided in Grenada and in St. Vincent, 7482–7485——Has practically carried the Metairie system into operation upon his own estate in Grenada, with reference to the cultivation of coffee and cocoa, 7486–7488——It is partially applied in Grenada to the cultivation of coffee; it is applicable, with equal benefit and advantage to the cultivation of sugar, 7489, 7490——Details with reference to that particular system of tenancy, 7491–7500. 7537–7559. 7558–7562——Profit derived under the system, 7501–7506——Its applicability to the cultivation of sugar, 7507–7511—— Quantity of land usually held; quantity which would be applicable to sugar cultivation, 7512–7521——Manner in which the share of the produce is ascertained, and paid to the negro, 7522–7530——Failure of crops; facility with which negroes maintain themselves on an estate in the West Indies, 7531–7536——Dislike conceived by the negro to payment in wages, 7551, 7552——Supposing the system alluded to to be carried out, manner in which the manufacture of the sugar is to be attained, 7553–7555——Nobody has yet tried the system in the island of St. Vincent or Trinidad except witness; steps already taken to introduce it into Trinidad, 7556, 7557——Nature of the system adopted in Berbice, and in Hayti, 7563, 7564.

Rum:

Antigua—Increase in the consumption of rum in the island since the emancipation, *Nugent* 2960–2963.

British Guiana.—Average price of rum that would be a remunerating price, *Barkly* 2582, 2583. 2585, 2586——The rum of Demerara is very much improved of late years, *Ib.* 2584——The consumption of rum has increased since emancipation, *Allen* 3792, 3793.

Jamaica.—

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Rum—continued.

Jamaica.—The consumption of rum has not increased since the establishment of freedom, *Knibb* 6276.

Trinidad.—The consumption of rum in the island has increased very much since emancipation; the negroes are not naturally inclined to intoxication, *Bushe* 4148, 4149.

See also *Allowances to Labourers. Antigua. Cultivation of Sugar,* IV. 2. *St. Kitt's. Morals of the Negroes. Sugar.*

Rural Police (Barbados). Expense of the rural police; it has been found efficient for police purposes, *Carrington* 1879–1886. 1888, 1889.

Russell, Lord *John.* See *African Immigrants,* I. i. II. 1. 3. *Allen,* Captain. *Barbados,* 2. *Emigration,* II. 2. *Immigration,* II. 1. v. 4. iv.

S.

Sabbath. See *Morals of the Negroes. Religious Instruction,* II. 1.

Sadler's Estate (St. Kitt's). Evidence as to the abandonment of Sadler's estate; cause of this abandonment, *Estridge* 3162–3171. 3182, 3183.

St. John, Captain *James Humphrey.* (Analysis of his Evidence.)—An officer of the Royal Artillery and colonial engineer of Jamaica, and a special magistrate during the time of apprenticeship, and a local magistrate besides, 6986–6998——The laws which witness administered are sufficient for affording redress in all possible points to both labourer and employer, 6999, 7000——The great distress on the part of the Jamaica planters is to be attributed to want of labour, 7001–7005——Causes from which that want of labour has proceeded; average number of day's work performed by a negro in a week, 7006, 7007——Evidence respecting the employment of negro workmen in contracts performed under witness's superintendence as colonial engineer; rate of wages, &c. 7008–7031——Great complaints of the want of continuous labour; an increase of labourers is the best remedy for these complaints, 7032, 7033——Fifty thousand immigrants would be required for Jamaica to keep up the present cultivation, 7036——The existing number of labourers in Jamaica would be sufficient if they worked industriously and continuously, 7037——Whether it is desirable for wages to be lowered, with the view to compel more industrious habits; nature of the usual contracts made between workman and master; sufficiency of the laws for the enforcement of the same, 7038–7045——Probable effect of compelling the negro to pay a high land tax for this provision ground, 7046, 7047——Expediency of a restriction in the system of provision grounds; failure of an attempt to let land to the negroes, 7048–7055. 7066——Chief productions cultivated; ready markets found for those productions, 7056–7058——Witness has heard complaints of squatting on unclaimed lands: the laws are sufficient to check the practice, 7063–7065——By whom the expenses of an immigration should be borne, 7067, 7068.

[Second Examination.]—Extraordinary improvement in the negro character which has been produced by emancipation and is still going on; respects in which this improvement has shown itself, 7069–7106——Tendency to dress, 7074, 7075——Want of industry displayed, 7079–7081——Increase in the number of marriages, 7082. 7083——Improvement in the conduct of the wives, 7084, 7085——Consequent rapid increase in the population by natural causes, 7086——Idleness of the rising generation; to what to be attributed, 7087–7096. 7104–7106——Attendance of the negroes upon Divine service: increasing attention paid to religious observances, 7097–7103.

St. Kitt's. See *Kitt's, St.*

St. Lucia. See *Lucia, St.*

St. Vincent. See *Vincent, St.*

Salaries. See *Administration of Justice. Attornies of Estates. Clergy* (British Guiana).

Sales of Estates (Jamaica). A great many estates in Jamaica have been offered for sale lately, but people would not buy them, *M'Cornock* 4864.

Savings' Banks. See *Benefit Societies* (Jamaica).

Scale of Labour (Jamaica). Scale of labour which regulates the day's work; wages of a hired labourer during slavery, *Geddes* 6922–6924.

Schools (Antigua). Increase of the number of schools since the commencement of freedom, *Nugent* 2857, 2858, 2860–2870——Efforts made by the negroes themselves to supply funds for carrying on schools, *Ib.* 2859.

See also *Churches. Education. Habits of the Negroes,* II. 1. *Mico Charity. Religious Instruction* II. 2.

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Scoble, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has visited Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, for the purpose of ascertaining the exact condition of the negro apprentice, 4203, 4204——Has had an opportunity of judging of the relative position of masters and servants in British Guiana; statement as to this position, and how far the labouring population are contented and satisfied with the position in which they are placed by the existing laws, 4205, 4206. 4215——The special justices of the colony administer the law between master and servant, 4207–4212——The police and vagrant laws in the colony are sufficient for the suppression of crime, 4213——An Order in Council effectually prevents squatting on Crown lands, 4214——Nature of the Immigration Ordinance, 4216——There is sufficient labour at the present time in British Guiana; but the inducements given by the planters are not sufficient to secure continuous labour, 4217–4219——Tariff regulating the labour in British Guiana, drawn up by a committee of planters appointed by the late Sir James Carmichael Smith; it was drawn up previously to the introduction of apprenticeship, 4220–4224.

Proportion which the amount of labour actually performed now bears to that which was performed by the slave, 4225——The same classes of women work as during slavery and apprenticeship; but they do not do the same kind, nor the same amount, of work; the children are not employed, 4226–4229——Amount of wages paid for a day's labour or task; with the provision grounds they are adequate, 4230–4240——Information as to the comparative price of labour during the periods of slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, 4241——If there has been a reduction in the price of sugar, there has also been a reduction in the expense of raising it, so far as negro labour is concerned, 4242——Complaints of the negroes that their wages are not paid regularly; manner in which, and when they are paid, 4243, 4244——Withdrawal of labourers from agricultural employment in British Guiana, 4245——Tenure by which the negroes hold possession of their huts and provision grounds; ejectments frequently take place, 4246–4251.

The general condition of the labourers has improved very much indeed since emancipation, 4252——They have saved large sums of money occasionally; a large number have bought lots of land in the colony, 4253, 4254——They contribute very liberally to missions and schools, 4255——Religious bodies which have established missions in the colony enumerated; how they are chiefly supported, 4256, 4257——The colony, generally, as a trading community, has improved since emancipation, 4258——Causes which have been in operation to account for the falling off in the amount of produce exported from Guiana during the first three years of freedom, as compared with the last three years of slavery, and the three years of apprenticeship, 4259–4261——Remarks upon the statement of the losses said to be sustained by 62 estates in British Guiana during the year 1841; 4262–4265——Government should have a controlling power over emigration into the British colonies, 4266–4268——Reasons for supposing that the labourers would look with very considerable jealousy to a large importation of labourers into the colony of British Guiana, 4269–4271——The conduct generally, on the part of managers of estates, towards the negroes has not been conciliatory; the result has been a great dissatisfaction on the part of the negroes, 4272–4274——Free labour is not only the cheapest kind of labour, but will be found, under proper direction, to be the best kind of labour, 4275.

[Second Examination.]—Remarks with reference to the laws passed in British Guiana, in view of the abolition of the apprenticeship system; especially with regard to those regulating contracts, 4276, 4277——Measures which have been adopted in the colony to promote immigration, 4278, 4279—— Reasons for the falling off of industry in the colony subsequent to the complete emancipation of the slaves; reasons for the falling off of the produce exported, 4280–4283——Opinion of Governor Light on the tariff of labour of the colony, 4284——State of crime in the colony, 4285, 4286——State of education and religious instruction in British Guiana, 4287–4289——Judging of the colony from the colonial revenues, witness would say that it must be prosperous, for there is a very large amount of taxation raised in the colony, 4290–4293——The value of property in George Town has increased since August 1838, 4291——Evidence as to the value of property in the rural districts, 4294——The emancipated negroes have purchased land extensively in different districts; in some cases they have paid an exorbitant price for it; they are bringing them into cultivation successfully, 4295–4298——Measures which would be of great service in relieving the colony from the pressure which is said to bear upon it at the present moment, especially with respect to immigration, 4299.

Not a few immigrants might be obtained from Barbados, and from Antigua, without any serious loss being sustained by those islands, 4299——A considerable number of labourers may be obtained for Trinidad from the Spanish Main, 4300——The immigration should be left to private enterprise, under the controlling power of the Government; species of control the Government should have, 4301, 4302——The laws in Antigua respecting the relation that subsists between master and servant, are by no means so liberal as the laws of the other colonies, 4303——Manner in which it is possible that immigration into British Guiana could be conducted by private enterprise, 4304–4309——The laws in the Crown colonies regulating the relation between master and

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Scoble, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

and servant, are as perfect as they can be, 4309*–4322——Further evidence respecting the tenure by which the negroes hold possession of their huts and provision grounds; also respecting the ejectments which have taken place, 4323–4328. 4352——Further inducements which should be held out by the planters, beyond those already held out, in order to enable them to obtain continuous labour from the negroes, 4329–4336. 4344–4348. 4359——It would be very desirable to establish a system of rent in British Guiana, 4336–4343——The wages are insufficient; the mode of payment of the labourer is unjust, 4349. 4355–4358. 4360, 4361——Witness would place the labourers on the same legal footing on which the labourers of this country are placed, 4350——The complaints in Demerara of the negroes not having done any work upon the estates on which they have resided, have not existed by any means to the extent which has been supposed and alleged, 4353. 4354.

The truck system was formerly in practice in the colony; it has been abandoned very generally since 1840, 4362–4365——Further evidence respecting the struggle maintained between the planters and the labourers, with a view to obtaining from the labourers the same amount of labour as they gave during the period of slavery, and its results, 4366–4370——Further reasons for considering the wages at present paid, with the provision grounds, sufficient; without the provision grounds, they would be inadequate to sustain the negro, 4371–4381——The smallness of the money wages is one of the causes of the present distress in British Guiana, 4376——Under the present system the labourer in British Guiana does not give that supply of labour which under a wholesome state of things he ought to do, 4382–4388——From 5,000 to 8,000 labourers might be taken from Barbados without serious injury to that colony, 4389——About 2,000 or 3,000 might be taken from Antigua, 4390—— Evidence with reference to the Antigua law, relating to the residence of husbands and wives on different estates, 4391–4398.

Sconce, Charles. Evidence respecting an estate belonging to Charles Sconce, the senior magistrate of Vere (Jamaica); wages paid to labourers, &c., *Candler* 7872–7878.

Scotch Immigrants (St. Vincent). Scotch immigrants recently employed; their ability to endure the work; the speculation was successful, but more expensive than negro cultivation under slavery, or at present, *Grant* 180–192——The immigrants expect a a rise, and have generally been promoted, *Ib.* 193, 194——Their health has not been affected, unless they have taken to drinking, *Ib.* 195, 196.

Sharpe, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has resided during the greater part of his life in Barbados; has been engaged in agriculture; extent and nature of the estate managed by witness, 1432. 1440——Production of Barbados, 1441——Articles produced on witness's estate, 1442——Extent of the colony of Barbados; for the most part the whole island is fertile and in cultivation; number of acres the island contains, 1443–1447——Population of Barbados in the year of the abolition of slavery; diminution since that time; causes of it, 1448–1454——The labourers will not agree to enter into contracts, 1455, 1456——Means resorted to for ejectment of labourers from houses and premises occupied by them, 1457–1461. 1476, 1477——The payment of rent by the labourer does not give him an attachment to the soil that he occupies, and make him unwilling to migrate, 1462–1475——Disputes between labourers and employers are settled by application to the police magistrates, 1462——Nature of the crops which the labourers usually grow upon their plots of land; manner in which they manufacture their sugar; assistance rendered by the proprietor; produce taken as a consideration, 1478–1484.

The labourer derives considerable profit from his land in provisions, 1481——Many of the small holders who occupy only a quarter of an acre prefer growing sugar canes instead of provisions when the soil is productive, 1482——In the event of labourers leaving their holdings, no notice is given between the parties, 1484——Rate of wages paid the labourers; allowances beyond money payments; how the amount of wages is regulated; number of hours the labourers work; task-work is not in operation in Barbados at present, 1485–1496. 1501–1503. 1506——Redress the employers have in the event of the work not being properly performed, 1497–1500——Average attendance of labourers on witness's estate during the last three years of slavery; number of days they work now during freedom, 1507–1521*——Considerable increase in the cost of cultivation; there has been simultaneously a great diminution in the amount of produce; to what causes this may be attributed, 1522–1530——Great want of continuous labour, 1531, 1532——There are very few instances in Barbados of negroes having purchased land, and that only in small quantities, 1533–1536——The number of labourers in the island is sufficient if the labour could be made continuous, 1537, 1538——Advancing the wages has had no effect in making them work continuously, 1539–1543——In the present state of the labouring population of Barbados, they could not afford to lose any considerable amount by their emigrating to other colonies, 1544–1555——Increase of the taxes in the island of Barbados, 1557——The import and export duties have increased, 1558——The productions of the island have diminished of late years, 1559. 1560.

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Sharpe, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

General improvement which has taken place in the habits and general state of the negro population of Barbados since the period of freedom, 1562 *et seq* ——The means of religious instruction have increased considerably; the Sabbath is better observed, 1562. 1567–1578——Marriage is more frequent, 1562——The state of morals is better than it was, 1564–1566——The means of general education have considerably increased, 1567*——Evidence respecting the administration of justice in the island of Barbados, 1579–1591. 1640–1649——Manner in which the aged and infirm negroes are supported, 1592, 1593——Sort of houses provided for the negroes, 1595–1598——Reasons for supposing the wages paid as more than sufficient to support a family, 1599——The women engage in field labour as willingly as the men; they do as much work, 1600–1602——Giving the negroes an interest in the profits of the estate would not be productive of any good result, 1603–1609.

The moral condition of the negroes has been better since emancipation, 1610, 1611——The negroes have not purchased any estates, either individually or collectively, 1612, 1613——Average produce of sugar upon witness's estate during slavery and since the establishment of freedom, 1614, 1615——The land cultivated by the negroes for their own benefit usually produces less than the land they cultivate for the estate, 1616–1618——System of rotation of crops adopted in Barbados, 1619–1623——The land is highly manured; species of manure used; a great deal is imported from this country, 1624–1630——The plough is used in Barbados, but not generally, 1631——The economy of labour is quite in its infancy in Barbados; when agricultural improvements come into operation, wages will be reduced, 1632–1634.

The law does not allow a longer lease than for a year to be entered into with the negroes for the occupation of their provision grounds; they generally occupy them from week to week, and pay a weekly rent, 1635–1639——A fall in the price of sugar would have the effect of crippling the means of the planters and lessening the cultivation of the land; this would operate injuriously on the situation and welfare of the negro population, 1650–1655——Quantity of the produce which comes to the proprietor and quantity to the labourer upon the land he hires, 1656–1661. 1701——Whether it would be possible and advantageous to get the negroes in Barbados to take an acre of land and cultivate it themselves, and render the canes to the mill, and take a certain portion of it for their trouble, 1663–1665——Value of the buildings and machinery upon witness's estate, 1666——Windmills are used generally; there is only one steam-engine in the island, 1667.

In the East Indies the labourers produce the canes and sell them to the manufacturer; it would not be an improvement to introduce such a system into the West Indies, 1668——Evidence as to the management of estates in Barbados by proprietors or others, 1669–1679. 1684, 1685——No estates in Barbados have been thrown out of cultivation since the establishment of freedom; very few have been sold; they have been sold at a less price than during slavery, 1686–1689. 1691–1700——There are in Barbados a greater number of aged and infirm and children in proportion than in any other of the West India Islands, 1690——Largest sum witness has known to be made by a negro from lands hired and cultivated by him, 1702–1706——Witness occasionally employs labourers who are not resident on his estate; different rate of wages paid to such labourers and to those resident upon the estate, 1707, 1708.

[Second Examination.]—Extracts from a document received from Barbados relating to the cultivation of witness's estates and the number of labourers; the quantity of stock, and the quantity of sugar made upon the estate in the six years previous to the entire abolition and in the last two years, 1907–1913.

Sierra Leone. Means already taken to obtain emigrants to St. Vincent from Sierra Leone, *Grant* 382–390.

See also *African Immigrants*, I. *America, North. Emigration*, I. 1. *Golden Grove Estate* (Jamaica). *Immigration. Madden*, Dr.

Slave Labour:

Jamaica.—Probable effect upon the labourers in Jamaica of a reduction in the price of sugar in England; there is no chance of free-labour sugar ever being able to compete with slave-labour sugar, *M'Cornock* 4882–4884. 4906–4908——Free-labour sugar can never compete with the produce of slave labour, *Geddes* 6838, 6839——Comparative cost of free-grown and of slave-grown sugar, supposing the planters of Jamaica to have the benefit of continuous labour at fair and moderate wages, *Ib.* 6840–6844.

Trinidad.—Some protection should be given to free-labour sugar over slave-labour sugar; free labour in any case will not be able to compete with slave labour, *Bushe* 4139–4144.——*See* also *Cuba. Cultivation. Free Labour.*

Soil:

Antigua.—There has been no alteration in the fertility of the soil of Antigua since witness has known it, *Nugent* 2964.

Jamaica.—

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Soil—continued.

Jamaica.—Some parts of the land of Jamaica are very fertile; some parts quite the contrary; number of years they are able to ratoon the canes upon the most fertile parts, and upon the least fertile, *M'Cormack* 4790–4793——Comparison of the nature of the soil of Cuba with that of Jamaica, *Spalding* 5849–5852.

Trinidad.—The soil in Trinidad is as firm as any in the world, *Burke* 4024, 4106–4108.——*See also Kat's, St. Plough,* The.

Sorsano, Mr. (Trinidad). Witness concurs in the answers given by Mr. Sorsano before the committee in Trinidad with regard to the population of that island, the extent of the colony, and the quantity in cultivation, *Burnley* 890.

Spalding, Hinton, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has resided in the island of Jamaica since 1816; left it on the 30th March 1842; is proprietor of five coffee plantations, 5497–5505——Witness has also had charge of a sugar estate in the parish of Clarendon, called St. Toolies, 5508, 5597, 5511–5514——Witness is a member of the House of Assembly, 5508, 5509——Counties and parishes in which witness's estates are situated, 5510——There is a very large proportion of the island of Jamaica uncultivated, 5515, 5755, 5756——Expense per acre of reclaiming primitive land, covered with virgin wood, and rendering it fit for the planting of coffee, 5516–5521——Practice on witness's estates as to the occupation of houses and lands by the labourers; it is the general custom in the island of Jamaica to make the labourers pay rent for land they occupy, 5522–5528, 5890, 5900——Great dislike on the part of the negroes to pay any rent; they dislike the system of deducting the rent from their wages, 5529–5531, 5534–5539——A system of rent has no tendency to create on the part of the negro any local attachment to the property where he resides, 5532, 5533.

Quantity of land occupied by each labourer in the shape of provision ground; there is no rent paid, 5540, 5541——Notice required before a labourer can be ejected from his house, 5542——They never did work continuously by any means; witness had no command over them in that respect; they seldom work more than four days in the week, 5543–5554——Witness on the Hermitage Estate has imposed a fine, in the shape of a double rent, upon those who did not work five days in the week; this succeeded in some measure, 5555–5568——The work was frequently done in a slovenly and unsatisfactory manner; witness was obliged to put up with it for fear lest if he resorted to harsh measures he should drive them off the Estate, 5569–5579——Great want of magistrates in the county in which witness's Hermitage estate is situated, 5580–5613——The labourers are sometimes paid by the day, and sometimes by the task; they prefer the task; why witness would rather pay by the task, 5614–5628——The wages are not the subject of any contract; there is an understood rate of wages in the district; they have remained the same since the commencement of freedom, 5629–5631——The proprietors cannot afford to pay the present rate of wages; witness has tried the experiment of lowering wages; it failed, 5632–5641——Witness has always continued on good and friendly terms with his labourers, 5642–5645——Classes of labourers witness has on his coffee plantations, 5646.

The women work more assiduously than the men, 5647——Difference in the number of labourers residing on witness's estate between the latter years of slavery and the present period of freedom, 5648, *et seq.*——A number of them have purchased land in the neighbourhood, and settled on it; they work for witness when it suits their purpose, 5654, 5655——Some of them have purchased as much as 10 acres; the negro could live very well on the produce of one acre; way in which they cultivate their land, 5656–5659——Proportion in which the produce of coffee has diminished on those estates since the commencement of freedom, 5665——Number of hours' work exacted during slavery and during apprenticeship, 5666, 5667——Manner in which the cultivation of an estate is prejudiced by the want of more continuous labour, 5668, 5669——Evidence respecting a number of liberated Africans witness had on his estate; they have been generally well-conducted and steady, 5670–5689——The introduction of these emigrants did not produce any effect on the industry of the resident negroes; it did not reduce their wages, 5690–5692——Extent to which witness stands in need of further immigration, 5693, 5694.

Immigration is the only remedy for the distress of the island; number requisite to support the cultivation of the whole island, 5695–5698, 5749–5754, 5855–5932–5930——It would create such a competition of labour as to reduce wages, 5699–5701——Cost per head at which negroes can be imported into Jamaica from the coast of Africa, 5702–5708——There has been a small immigration from the United States; arrangements under which they were imported; cost per head: some of them have returned; they were not suited for the purpose, 5709–5717——Any extensive system of immigration into Jamaica should be carried on under the control and authority of the Government; the Treasury should find the funds; the proprietors would be unable to bear any part of the expense, 5718–5721, 5786, 5787——No new laws that could be passed would render labour more continuous, 5722–5724——Difficulty of getting written or even verbal contracts for labour, 5725–5727——There are no complaints in Jamaica as to what is called squatting, 5728–5739——Statement of the proceeds of land

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Spalding, Hinton, Esq. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

land cultivated in provisions at the present and late current prices, to show that the negro in one year can realize three or four times as much as is necessary to purchase an acre of land, and make himself quite independent, &c. *p.* 494——System of letting land to the negroes by proprietors, 5731–5749.

The population in witness's district of Jamaica has not increased much from natural causes, 5743——Marriage has increased very much, 5744–5746——The custom of giving gratuitous medical attendance as part of the earnings is adopted in some districts, 5747, 5748——How the demand for provisions would not increase with an increase of population by means of immigration, 5757——Ultimately the immigrants will, like the present labourers, have a tendency to establish themselves on the land, and withdraw from the labour market; the immigration must then be continued; there are no means of checking this, 5758–5763——Unless something effectual can be done to ensure a better supply of labour, the cultivation and the export of produce from the island must cease, 5764–5768, 5787——Reason for inferring that the nature of the taxation in the colony should be so altered as to make it fall more on the labourer, and less on the proprietor; how this might be accomplished, 5769–5785——There is no objection to raising the whole revenue required for parochial and public purposes by means of a land tax, provided it could be prevented from falling on the exportable produce, 5773 Without some change for the better the present system of cultivation cannot be carried on for more than three years; there will then be no inducement for the greater part of the white inhabitants to remain in the island, 5788–5790.

The coloured population are not in such a state of advancement, that if left by the whites they could maintain themselves as a civilized body of people, 5791–5798——The laws are quite adequate for the government of the colony, 5799, 5800——Evidence respecting the abandonment of West Prospect Estate; loss sustained by witness thereby, 5802–5808——Some of the negroes cultivate coffee on the land they purchase for themselves, 5809——The cultivation of sugar is not likely to be carried on by the negroes, even if the white inhabitants are unable to pursue it, 5810, 5811——Bad state of the roads generally in Jamaica; formerly they were kept up by statute-labour; these means do not exist now; how the bad state of the roads adds to the expense of the cultivation, 5812–5821——Roads are one of the most important means of maintaining civilization in a country, 5821, 5822——Way in which the roads are now managed in Jamaica; manner in which they ought to be managed, 5823–5832——Some of the parishes give assistance to the poor; in general they are provided for by their relations on the estates, 5833–5835——The money levied for parochial purposes is raised by taxes imposed by the vestry, 5836–5838.

Amount paid by witness for the Grove Estate in 1822; value of it in 1831; 5839–5843, 5856–5860——With a proper immigration, Jamaica could enter into competition in the market with the soils of Cuba, 5844, 5845——Benefits which would accrue to the Africans by Government undertaking to conduct a large immigration of them into the West India colonies, 5846——There is no unwillingness on the part of the inhabitants of Africa to dwell in Jamaica, 5847, 5848——Respective nature of the soil of Cuba and that of Jamaica, 5849–5852——Price of sugar in Cuba, 5853, 5854, 5905–5907, 5942–5950——With free labour in abundance Jamaica could beat the slave-labour cultivation of any country, 5855, 5901–5904, 5922, 5947, 5948——Coffee estates require quite as much labour as sugar estates, 5861–5865——The abandonment of an estate is not the cause of any regret to the negroes, 5866, 5867——The late short crops are to be attributed solely to the want of continuous labour, 5868–5871.

The truck system does not at all prevail in witness's district; he has always paid them in money, 5872–5875——The magistrates are appointed by the Governor, solely on the recommendation of the custos, 5876, 5877——Witness had nearly 100 Irish emigrants on his estates; they would have done very well if he had been supported in the management of them, and in exacting that for which they had agreed, but they were not people adapted for the purpose, 5878–5882——European labourers might cultivate coffee in the mountains in the island of Jamaica with perfect safety to their health, and with great advantage to their comforts, compared with their condition in this country; emigration need not be necessarily confined to Africa, 5883–5885——The negroes are very jealous of the whites; they are not so of the Africans, 5886, 5887——Witness has devoted the whole of the sum received by him as compensation to the cultivation of his estates, 5888–5890——A great portion of the estates in Jamaica at the time of emancipation were mortgaged; in many cases the compensation money was awarded to the mortgagees; the intentions of the Government were not frustrated thereby, 5891–5894——Great want of capital felt throughout the island, 5895–5897——If an extensive system of immigration were carried into effect, and the expense borne by the Government of the home country, the deficiency of capital would be no obstacle in the long run to the successful cultivation of the sugar estates, 5898.

Net revenue arising from the cultivation of three acres of provision ground; it would not be practicable for a proprietor to grow those provisions instead of sugar and coffee, 5908–5913——No machinery has been introduced of late on the coffee plantations in the island of Jamaica, 5914–5916——There are many estates unmortgaged now;

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Spalding, Hinton, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

now; whether this would prevent any sum of money advanced by this country for the purpose of immigration being repaid at an early period, 5917–5921——Manner in which the labour could be applied if the Government were to bring negroes from Africa and elsewhere, 5923–5927——It would be to the benefit of the people if the intercourse between St. Domingo and Jamaica were free, 5928–5831——A great number of medical men have left the island; cause of this, 5937——The negroes are willing to pay for clothing, and for the keep of a horse, 5943——They are willing to pay for religious instruction, but not for education, 5945, 5946.

Spanish Laws. See *Laws*, II. 2.

Spanish Main. See *Imports and Exports. Trinidad.*

Spanish Peons (Trinidad). The holing for the canes in Trinidad is principally done by jobbing gangs of Spanish peons; they are more valuable for that description of work, and for felling trees, *Church* 1129–1132. 1148–1151.

Special Justices (Jamaica). Great reliance on the special justices, both on the part of the planters and of the labourers, *Knibb* 6288, 6289.

SQUATTERS:

1. *In British Guiana.*
2. *In Jamaica.*
3. *In St. Kitt's.*
4. *In Trinidad.*
5. *In St. Vincent.*

1. *In British Guiana:*

The negroes who settled upon abandoned estates can gain enough to indulge their love of finery without wages, *Campbell* 2252–2259——There is a sufficient law to prevent the negroes squatting upon unappropriated ground, *Ib.* 2260–2271; *Allen* 3525, 3526——From the great extent of country the laws are difficult to be enforced, *Campbell* 2260–2271——Squatting has not taken place to any considerable extent upon the unoccupied lands, *Allen* 3582——An order in council effectually prevents squatting on Crown lands, *Scoble* 4214.

2. *In Jamaica:*

No inconvenience has arisen in Jamaica from the practice of what is called squatting, *M'Cornock* 4786, 4787; *Spalding* 5728–5730——Forcible squatting does not prevail to any extent in Jamaica; the laws are quite sufficient to restrain it, *Geddes* 6696, 6697——Witness has heard complaints of squatting on unclaimed lands; the laws are sufficient to check the practice, *St. John* 7063–7065.

3. *In St. Kitt's:*

The laws are sufficient to prevent the negroes from squatting on estates; there are no Crown lands, *Estridge* 3174–3176. 3280–3283.

4. *In Trinidad:*

The greater part of the squatters fix themselves upon Crown lands, *Burnley* 632–635——The squatters have generally established themselves in the neighbourhood of some population; objection to enforcing from these persons a considerable rent for those lands, if they choose to retain them, *Ib.* 637–641. 644——At the present time there would be no difficulty in ejecting them; there may be difficulty if they are allowed to remain, *Ib.* 642, 643——If they were asked for rent, they would return immediately to the estate from whence they came, *Burnley*, 645——Means which would prevent any part of the uncultivated, or Crown lands being taken possession of by the trespassers, *Ib.* 801–902——Explanations with reference to portions of former evidence; respecting the means to be taken to prevent squatters taking possession of the lands, *Ib.* 908.

5. *In St. Vincent:*

The system of squatting is going on to a great extent among the negroes, but not in an unauthorised manner; they generally purchase the land, *Grant* 135–142——The labourers prefer hiring land to settling upon uncultivated land, *Ib.* 273–276.

See also Crown Lands (Trinidad).

Stanley, Lord. See *African Immigrants*, I. II. 1, 3. *Agricultural Society* (Trinidad).
Allen, Captain. *British Guiana*, 2. *Employment of Labourers* (British Guiana).

Steam Engines:

Barbadoes.—There is only one steam-engine in the island; the work is all done by wind, as the trade winds are constantly blowing, *Sharpe* 1667; *Carrington* 1826.

Report, 1842—*continued.*

Steam Engines—continued.

Jamaica.—The system of farming has not improved lately; some improvements have taken place; several estates have steam-engines now, *Knibb* 6068–6070.

St. Kitt's.—There are some steam-engines in the island, but windmills are generally enough to grind the crop that is made, *Estridge* 3107.

Stewart, Mr. See *Emigration*, II. 2. *Machinery*, 1.

Stipendiary Magistrates. See *African Immigrants. Immigration*, II. 2. vi. *Magistrates.*

Stock:

Jamaica.—There is abundance of stock in the island, *M'Cornock* 4928–4937.

Trinidad.—Stock kept by witness on his estate, *Church* 1190.

See also *Provision Grounds*, II. 1.

Strikes for Wages (British Guiana). Strikes amongst the negroes for wages, when the canes were fit for cutting, *Campbell* 2240–2244——The strike among the labourers will very materially affect this year's produce; it will probably not amount to more than 40,000 hogsheads, *Ib.* 3639, 3640.——*See* also *Wages*, III. 3.

Sugar:

Antigua.—Return delivered in to show that the production of sugar, in this island of Antigua, has not at all declined upon a long average of years, *Nugent* 2840–2846.

Barbados.—Quantity of sugar made upon witness's estate, in the six years previous to the entire abolition, and in the last two years, *Sharpe* 1907–1913——Average produce of sugar on witness's estate during slavery and since the establishment of freedom, *Ib.* 1614, 1615.

British Guiana.—Estimated cost of producing sugar per cwt. during slavery, apprenticeship, and freedom, respectively, *Campbell* 2102–2107——There is labour enough in the colony, but it cannot be obtained for the cultivation of sugar, *Ib.* 2116–2120——The growth of sugar could be increased to any extent with sufficient labour, *Ib.* 2156–2159.

The produce of sugar of British Guiana has, within the last four years, fallen off to the extent of at least one-third; this is chiefly to be ascribed to the circumstance that the same amount of labour cannot now be forced as in times of slavery or apprenticeship, *Allen* 3363–3390——Reasons for many estates making less sugar than when labour was coerced, *Ib.* 3611–3618.

Evidence respecting the inaccuracies in a report made by Captain J. A. Allen, stipendiary magistrate, about the net profits of six sugar estates, in the year 1840, and sent home by Governor Light: together with the return of Captain Allen, and also papers (A.), (B.), (C.), (D.), in reference to the same, *Barkly* 2468–2488——The size of the hogshead has gradually increased, from the time of slavery to the present, from about 12 to 24 cwt., *Allen* 3643–3652, 3653——Actual deficiency in weight in the gross produce of the colony, as compared with the time of slavery, *Ib.* 3654–3660.

Jamaica.—Statement exhibiting the results of the management of a sugar estate, carried on with a view to produce 120 hhds. of sugar, with continuous labour, at the present rate of wages, *Geddes* 6829–6831——Memoranda of the number of acres of cane land in cultivation, and the quantity of sugar made on witness's estates, from 1837 to 1842, *Ev. p.* 507——Transactions with sugar estate (A.) in the island of Jamaica, in raising, selling, &c. the crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841, *Ib.* 508——Transactions connected with the sugar estate (F.) in the island of Jamaica, in raising, selling, &c. the crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841, *Ib.* 509——Transactions connected with the sugar estate (E.) in the island of Jamaica, in raising, selling, &c. the crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841, *Ib.* 510——Transactions connected with the sugar estate (D.) in the island of Jamaica, in raising, selling, &c. the crops of 1839, 1840, and 1841, *Ib.* 511.

Trinidad.—Statement showing the average quantity of sugar made in the last three years of slavery, the last three years of apprenticeship, and the three years of freedom which have elapsed since the 1st January 1839, *Burnley* 721–725——It was formerly considered that the rum and molasses paid the expenses of the estate, over the West Indies generally; this is by no means the case now, *Carrington* 1838–1840——The production of sugar has fallen off 20 per cent. since emancipation; this is to be attributed entirely to the falling off of labour, *Burbe* 3905–3907, 3911——Size of the hogshead in Trinidad; there has been no alteration in it lately, *Ib.* 4166, 4167.

St. Vincent.—Quantity of sugar produced in St. Vincent in three years of slavery, three of apprenticeship, and three of freedom, *Grant* 298——The cost of production per cwt. can only be reduced by increasing the productive cultivation, *Ib.* 244–247.

See also *Allowances to Labourers. Antigua. Argyle Estate* (St. Vincent). *British Guiana*, 1. *Calder Estate* (St. Vincent). *Cultivation of Sugar. Exports. Free Labour. Hawking and Pedding Act* (Jamaica). *Labour*, II. 3. *Manufacture of Sugar. Metairie System of Cultivation and Tenancy. Paradise Estate* (Trinidad). *Price of Sugar. Provision Grounds*, II. 2. 6. *Taylor's Estate* (St. Kitt's).

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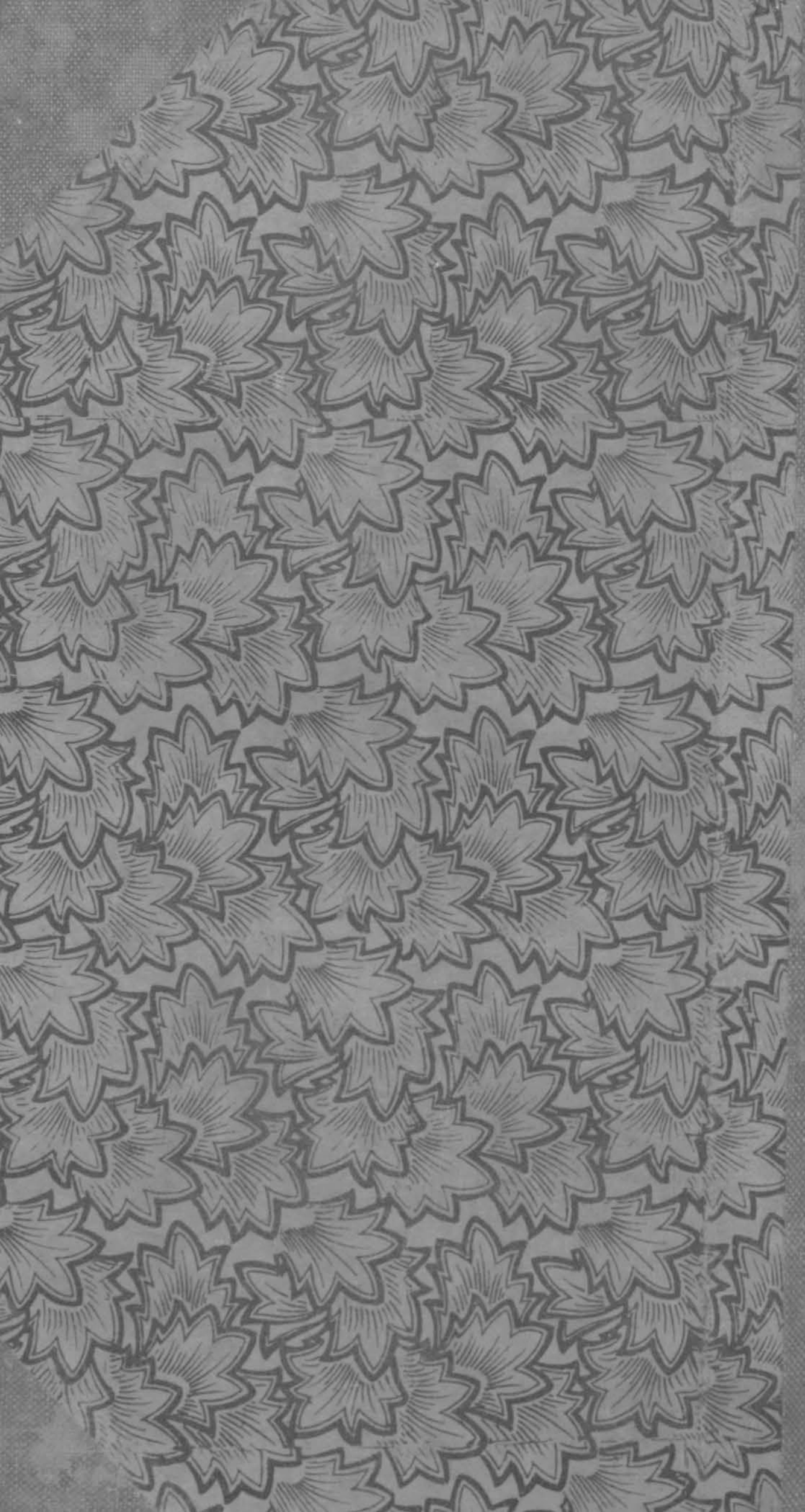
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